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#Claim as per NielsenIQ Retail Index Data for the period MAT Oct 2024 in the Battery Category.

SUNDAY
September 14, 2025

BENGALURU
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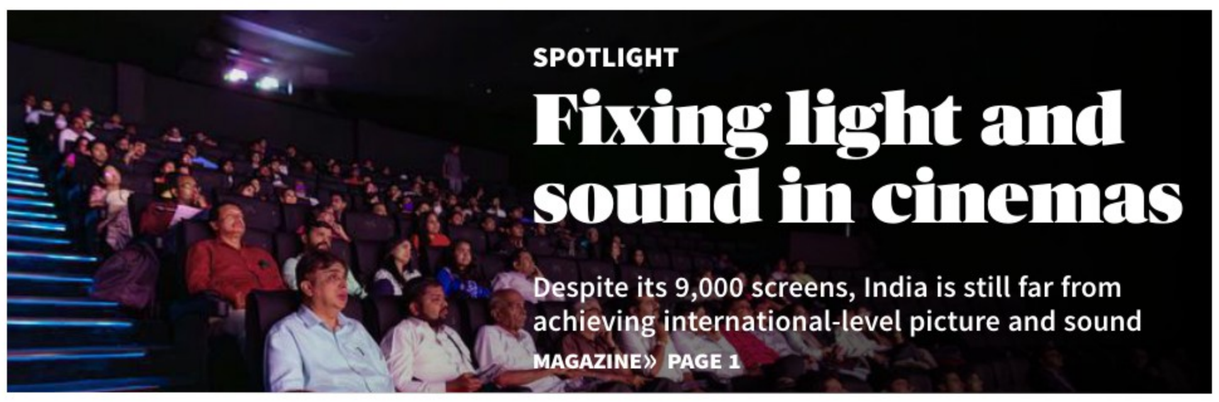


SPOTLIGHT

Fixing light and sound in cinemas

Despite its 9,000 screens, India is still far from achieving international-level picture and sound

MAGAZINE» PAGE 1

HIV strains in India resist some antibodies

SCIENCE » PAGE 13

How did Gen Z force a change in Nepal?

FAQ » PAGE 14

India meets Pakistan in Sunday's blockbuster

SPORT » PAGE 17

11 police personnel suspended for links with drug peddlers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A police inspector is among the 11 police personnel who have been suspended, pending departmental inquiry, for allegedly being hand in glove with a gang of peddlers selling drugs to be used as sedatives, in and around the west division.

Chamarajapet inspector T. Manjanna, head constable Ramesh, constables Shivraj, Madhusudan, Prasanna, Shankar Belagali, Anand, and J.J. Nagar police personnel - Basavanagudi Gowda, Kumar and Anand - are the suspended police personnel.

They used to allegedly collect "protection money" from the peddlers every month to allow them to sell tablets to be used as drugs after dilution.

The racket was uncovered when the R.R. Nagar police caught a group of six persons on August 22 redhanded while they were peddling the tablets to their customers, who included students. The police seized 1,000 tablets, which are banned from being sold over the counter, from them.

The police during the course of investigation, found that the accused were in regular touch with the Chamrajapet and J.J. Nagar police.

Investigation revealed that the police were hand in glove with the peddlers, receiving protection money and were also partying with them, sources said.

The incident has come as a major embarrassment to the Police Department, which is waging a war on the drug network but finds its own personnel to be in cahoots with drug peddlers. The city police are facing a challenge as this type of drug racket can't be booked under NDPS Act.

Modi calls for harmony in ethnic strife-torn Manipur

PM stresses need for dialogue between hill and valley districts during his first visit to the State since ethnic violence erupted in 2023; he inaugurates projects worth ₹7,300 crore in the State

Vijaita Singh
CHURACHANDPUR/IMPHAL

On his first visit to Manipur since ethnic violence erupted over two years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for strengthening dialogue to build a strong bridge of harmony between the State's hill and valley districts.

The ethnic conflict that broke out in May 2023 is between the Meitei people, who dominate the Imphal valley, and the Kuki-Zo people, who dominate the surrounding hills.

After flying into Imphal airport from Aizawl in Mizoram, where he had inaugurated a railway project, Mr. Modi headed by road to the hill district of Churachandpur. Establishing peace is essential for development anywhere, he said, after inaugurating projects worth ₹7,300 crore and meeting internally displaced people.

Many worries: Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacting with the displaced people in Churachandpur on Saturday. ANI/PMO

On his return from the hill district, Mr. Modi addressed a gathering at Kangla Fort in Imphal city, 61 km from Churachandpur. He inaugurated projects worth ₹1,200 crore at Imphal.

Rain hits schedule

Incessant rain forced last-minute changes in the Prime Minister's schedule and security arrangements. Though he was originally slated to travel by helicopter directly from Aizawl to Churachandpur before flying to Imphal, Mr. Modi was forced to travel by road from the State capital. The planned roadshow in Churachandpur had to be curtailed.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

We need jobs, people tell PM

CHURACHANDPUR/IMPHAL
People staying in relief camps requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi for help. "I told the Prime Minister that we need jobs. Many people have committed suicide here. We cannot secure the future of our children," said one of the residents displaced by the ethnic clashes. » PAGE 10

EC claims 'exclusive' power to decide how and when to hold SIR

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has, in no uncertain terms, told the Supreme Court to leave alone its "exclusive jurisdiction" to decide when and how to conduct Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The EC was responding to a petition seeking a judicial direction from the top court to the panel to conduct SIR at "regular intervals" across the country to identify and expel foreign infiltrators enrolled as voters. The EC said its power to decide if a revision exercise would be intensive or summary would "depend on the situation". The call was entirely its own and outside the judicial ambit.

"The decision to conduct a summary or an intensive revision of the electoral roll is left to the discretion of the EC. The EC has complete discretion over the policy of revision to the exclusion of any other authority," it submitted.

Provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electoral Rules, 1960 gave the EC "complete discretion on the timing of the revisional exercise". "The obligation to conduct a revision is not couched within a timeline," the EC noted. It said the law allowed it power to hold a special revision of the rolls of any constituency or part of it "in such a manner as it may think fit".

The petitioner, Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, said periodic SIR before every general, State and local body elections was necessary to protect the purity of the electoral process. But the panel would brook no interference from the courts.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

NEARBY

CPA meet adopts four-point resolution

BENGALURU
The 11th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), India region conference, which concluded here on Saturday, adopted a four-point resolution in order to increase people's trust in democratic institutions. » PAGE 7

Confusion over nomenclature during survey

BENGALURU
Ahead of the socio-educational survey, members of the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community are again caught in a fix over the nomenclature of their community. » PAGE 7

Fans upset over delay in honouring actors

BENGALURU
Soon after actors Vishnuvardhan and B. Saroja Devi were posthumously conferred with the Karnataka Ratna, fans are upset with the government over the "delayed recognition". » PAGE 5

2 killed as truck knocks down vehicles

BENGALURU
Two persons were killed after a speeding truck lost control and ran over a series of vehicles at the Sumanahalli junction.

» PAGE 3

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 4 & 6
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

A first for Mizoram

The first train that was flagged off from the newly built Sairang Railway Station in Mizoram on Saturday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Mizoram's first railway line, the Bairabi-Sairang stretch, which integrated the State with the nation's rail network. R.V. MOORTHY

Hassan tragedy: Toll climbs to 10; case booked against driver for negligence

The Hindui Bureau
HASSAN

The death toll in the accident that occurred at Mosale Hosahalli in Hassan district on Friday evening, climbed to 10 on Saturday.

The accident occurred when a goods vehicle ploughed into a group of people who were part of a Ganesha immersion processsion.

The police, meanwhile, booked the driver of the goods vehicle, Bhuvanesh, for causing death by his negligent act.

Among the deceased three were students of the Government Engineering College at Mosale Hosahalli. They have been identified as Mithun, 21, Suresh, 21, and Praveen Kumar, 22.

The others who died are Rajesh, 18, Eshwar, 17, Gokul, 17, Kumaraswamy, 25, Praveen Kumar, 25, Chandan, 26, and Prabhakar, 51. The State government has annouced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh each to the kin of those who died.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda consoling the family of Prabhakar who died in the accident at Mosale Hosahalli on Friday. PRAKASH HASSAN

As many as 19 people injured in the incident are being treated at the Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences.

Krishna Byre Gowda, Minister for Revenue and in charge of Hassan district, describing the sequence of events, said the driver of the goods vehicle, who was on the other side of the divider, applied the brakes before hitting a two-wheeler. Video footage shows the goods vehicle suddenly accelerating, crossing the divider and ploughing into the crowd.

"It seems the driver pressed the accelerator and because of that, the truck crossed the divider," said the Minister, who visited the spot, adding that there was no trace of narcotics in the driver's blood.

Speaking to presspersons here on Saturday, Mr. Byre Gowda said the driver had been assaulted by the people soon after the incident, and he was under treatment in a hospital.

Further, he stated that a few people were trying to give a communal colour to the incident by projecting that the driver was from a particular faith.

"Such acts, which could cause violence in society, are also offences as per law. The police have been instructed to take action against such people," he stated.

On the condition of the road, where the accident occurred, the Minister said there had been allegations that the roadwork was not done scientifically.

He would write to the National Highway Authority of India on the road and would demand that the authority also offer relief to the families of deceased.

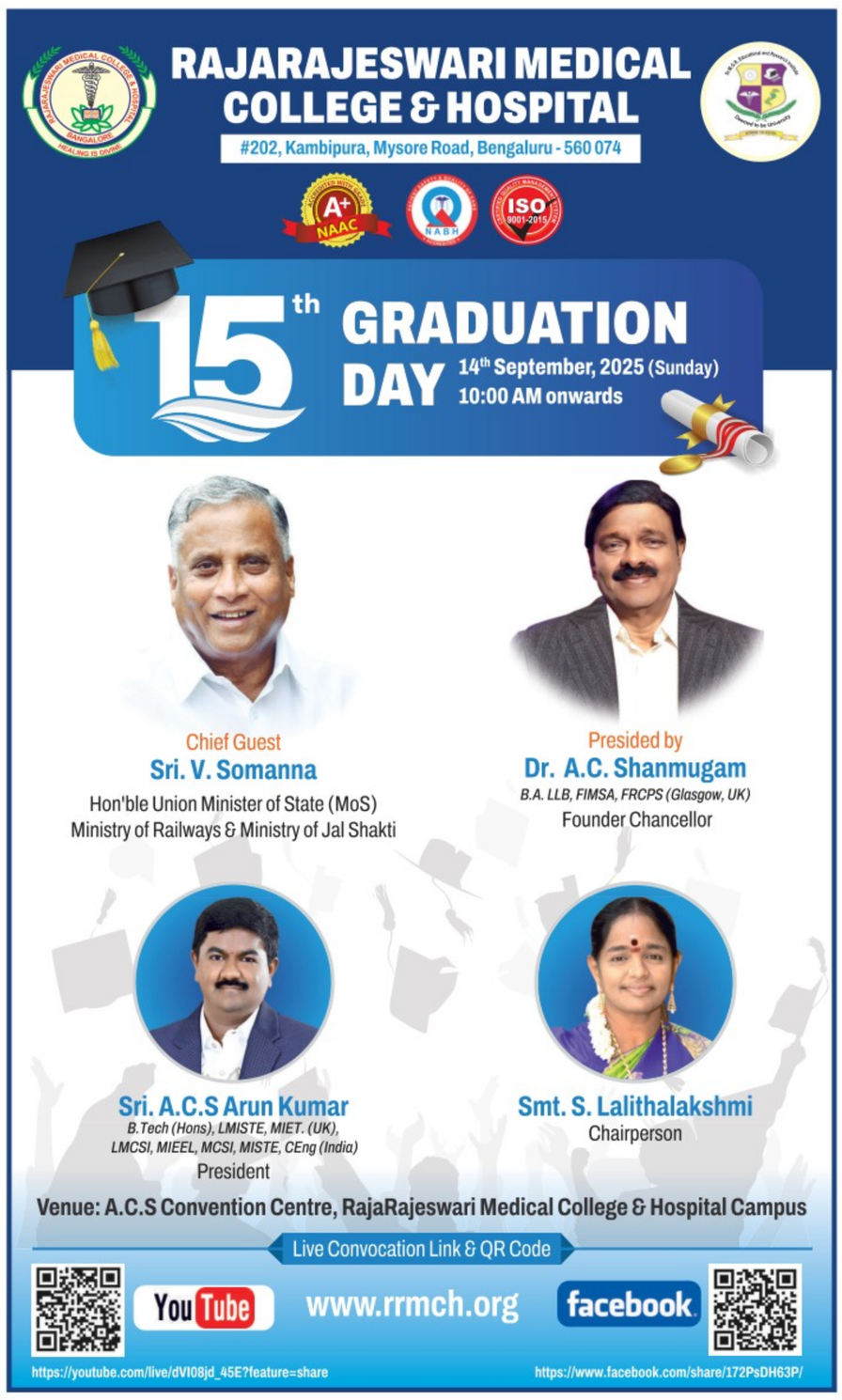
'Impose tariffs on Russian oil buyers'

Agencies
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

The U.S. has asked G7 countries to impose tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia, asserting that only "unified efforts" that cut off funding to Moscow's war machine at source can apply sufficient pressure to end "the senseless killing" in Ukraine.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer were on a call with G7 Finance Ministers when they reiterated Donald Trump's call for imposing tariffs.

FULL REPORT » PAGE 16



Bitter harvest: An apple grower walks through a submerged orchard at Ratnipora in Pulwama district of south Kashmir, 55 km from Srinagar.

Fallen hope: A grower gathers fallen fruit after the prolonged waterlogging in the Valley's orchards.

In peril: Flooding and waterlogging damages the fruit on trees, causing many apples to rot or fall prematurely.

Wasted effort: Apples lie scattered across a flooded orchard, as a farmer tries to save some of the crop.

Relentless rain upsets Kashmir's apple cart

Heavy monsoon and unprecedented floods submerge Kashmir's orchards, damaging the apple crop; closure of the National Highway leaves thousands of trucks stranded, worsening post-harvest losses for the thousands associated with the fruit trade

Imran Nissar
imran.nissar@thehindu.co.in

Horticulture, the mainstay of Kashmir's economy, with around 3.5 million people directly or indirectly associated with this sector, and a ₹10,000-crore industry in Jammu and Kashmir, has taken a major hit this year due to relentless rain and resultant flooding.

Known as the "apple bowl of India", Kashmir produces the largest quantity of the fruit in the country. The harvesting season usually runs from late August through October, when growers are at their busiest, sending produce to markets across India and abroad.

This year tells a different story. Incessant rain followed by unprecedented floods submerged orchards across the Valley. Landslides subsequently led to the closure of the only major National Highway connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country.

Flooding and waterlogging damaged the fruit on trees, causing many apples to rot or fall prematurely. There is also a fear that prolonged standing water could harm the root systems, affecting the long-term health of trees.

The highway to Jammu and beyond – the primary artery for moving agricultural produce out of the Valley – was closed for around nine days. Thousands of trucks laden with apples were stranded along the route, exacerbating post-harvest losses. With perishable goods stuck in transit, several boxes were spoiled, further increasing the financial burden on farmers and traders. According to fruit traders, losses were going to be in the region of ₹500 crore to ₹700 crore.

In the wake of the highway closure, the Union Railway Minister announced the first goods train from Budgam in Kashmir to New Delhi, starting September 13. The first dedicated fruit train is set to leave the Valley on September 15, taking 23 hours to reach its destination. Fruit growers began loading apples on September 11 and 12.

While fruit traders have welcomed this move, they stress the need for a much higher frequency of trains and an additional number of coaches, as currently only eight have been allocated.

The combined effect of crop damage and logistical challenges threatens the livelihoods of farming families and the local economy, which heavily relies on apple exports.

Muddy season: Fruit smeared with mud hang from branches.

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*Claim as per RSB Insights and Analytics Company Pvt. Ltd. survey conducted in May-Aug 2025 in the Flashlight category.

Heavy congestion awaits Mehkri Circle as 2nd Hebbal loop work continues

Once complete, it is expected to ease traffic at the Hebbal junction by giving vehicles a separate two-lane passage

GROUND REPORT

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Mehkri Circle, already one of city's busiest traffic junctions, is expected to see more congestion in the coming days, as the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) pushes ahead with the construction of a second loop at the Hebbal flyover.

The BDA is building a new loop from the Esteem Mall side to give vehicles from Yelahanka, Kogilu, Kodigehalli, Airport, and surrounding northern suburbs a direct entry towards Mehkri Circle. Currently, vehicles coming from Tumakuru Road to the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and heading towards Mehkri Circle are forced to merge with traffic from the Esteem Mall service road. From there, they must climb the Tumakuru Road loop to access the already-choked flyover that carries airport-bound traffic. Once complete, it is expected to ease piling traffic at the Hebbal junction by giving these vehicles a separate two-lane passage. For now, however, the construction has slowed vehicular movement. The BDA has cut portions of the service roads near Hebbal to enable construction. This has forced the traffic police to gate the vehicles, limiting movement to two lanes in the busy corridor. As a result, vehicles from Yelahanka and other northern suburbs are funnelling into a narrower stretch, causing longer traffic jams during peak hours. Airport-bound traffic is also slowing down at this bottleneck.

BDA is building the new loop from the Esteem Mall side to give vehicles from northern suburbs a direct entry towards Mehkri Circle at Hebbal flyover in Bengaluru. ALLEN EGENUSE J

The increased inflow is expected to push more traffic into nearby routes, including Cauvery theatre junction, a traffic police official said

"Because of the construction, we get stuck on the way to the city. Earlier, we could avoid the flyover, but now the traffic goes all the way till Mehkri Circle. Waiting time has increased," said Mohammed Pasha, an autorickshaw driver.

While traffic police officials admit that the new loop will ease congestion at Hebbal once it opens, they warn that the relief could be temporary.

Unless the city corporations proceed with widening the service road near Mehkri Circle, where land acquisition remains stalled with defence authorities, the bottleneck may only shift further down the stretch and Mehkri Circle, where vehicles from Hebbal, Tumakuru Road, and Ballari Road already meet, they said.

The increased inflow is expected to push more traffic into nearby routes, including Cauvery theatre junction and Palace Guttahalli, a traffic police official said.

To miss deadline again

A senior official from the BDA told *The Hindu* that the deadline set by the Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar for the project is November 30.

"However, continuous rains have affected progress, and the authority may require an additional 30 days, pushing the expected completion to January 1," the official added.

Bus-tilt scare: Balagere-Panathur Main Road to be widened

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after a school bus carrying 20 children nearly toppled when its wheel got stuck in an open drain along Balagere- Panathur Main Road, East City Corporation Commissioner D.S. Ramesh inspected the stretch on Saturday and said that the stretch will be widened to 18m on priority.

A view of the school bus, which nearly toppled after its wheel got stuck in an open drain on the Balagere–Panathur Road in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Land acquisition

Mr. Ramesh said the road widening work has been delayed due to land acquisition hurdles, but assured that the process will be completed using the Transferable Development Rights (TDR) scheme.

He added that compound walls obstructing the work have already been removed at some points, and widening has already begun at the accident site.

The Commissioner reviewed stormwater drains along Balagere Road, where encroachments were found to be blocking the free flow of rainwater into Varthur Lake. He instructed officials to clear the encroachments immediately and speed up desilting works in areas such as Devasandra and Pai Layout.

Letter to CM

Calling Bengaluru's pothole-ridden roads a public health crisis and an economic burden, social worker, professor, and civic activist Kiran Jeevan has written a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah requesting durable road governance instead of patchwork repairs that collapse with the first monsoon.

Mr. Jeevan, founder of the civic campaign 'Namma Roads Matter,' said that poor road conditions cause accidents and aggravate respiratory illnesses due to dust and pollution.

He said that while the government recently allocated ₹1,100 crore for road upgrade, the funds must be used to build climate-smart and sustainable infrastructure.

A view of Srinivasa Layout Road in Bengaluru. PRIYANKA VAADULASHA

Residents of Bagalur battle bad roads, overflowing sewage

Priyanka Vaadulasha
BENGALURU

Residents of Srinivasa Layout in Bagalur are grappling with crumbling roads and overflowing sewage that worsen during rains, despite repeated complaints to authorities. The lack of proper drainage and road maintenance has turned daily commutes into a struggle, raising concerns over public safety and health, according to residents.

"During monsoons, navigating potholes while travelling has been a task. With the mix of sewage water coming from the adjacent colonies, it restricts mobility to our area," said M. Kethan, resident of Srinivasa Layout. He said that with multiple apartments and layouts coming up, this is the only lane connecting to the main road, posing a major problem to the commuters.

Road issues

Jayan Philip Tor, principal of St. Francis School, said that even after multiple requests to the authorities, there was no progress regarding it.

"We've reached out to both gram panchayat and the State government, including the MLA, several times. Though the State did revert and conducted a survey on the roads, there was no progress after that. The school is paying taxes, and additionally, we spent ₹3 lakh last year for repairs. But the situation is still bad. We have more than 1,300 students and around 100 faculty; it is disturbing to witness kids having to go through this while commuting to school. Every day, accidents are being recorded," he said.

Residents complain that authorities have offered little beyond surveys and short-term fixes.

"Car services refuse to come here because of the bad road, and exacerbating the situation is the absence of streetlights, which makes it impossible to use the road at night," another resident, Mubina Taaz, said.

Space day celebrated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Physical Sciences at Kristu Jayanti University celebrated National Space Day on Thursday in collaboration with the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), ISRO.

The highlight of the event was "Space on Wheels," a mobile exhibition bus showcasing India's major space achievements. Models of landmark missions such as Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan, along with launch vehicles including PSLV, GSLV, and ASLV, were displayed.

150 school students and 775 university students participated in the exhibition, gaining an opportunity to engage with India's space legacy.

Addressing the gathering, Liji, head of the Department of Physical Sciences, emphasised that the initiative aimed to inspire young minds to see science not merely as theory but as a powerful force shaping the nation's future.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-26
Dated : 09-09-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
OHE Modification for provision of Hubballi Yard Layout Correction	Rs. 86,73,048/-

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:00 Hrs on 01-10-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction Distribution, Hubballi
PUB/464/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-TENDER NOTICE No. GEM/2025/B/6652793 Dt: 06.09.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Item of work	Approx.Value
Hiring of MUV pick up vants for Traction Distribution depots of Bengaluru division for moving men and materials for 2 years	Rs. 2,09,47,026/-

Last date for Submission of bids : Upto 16.00 hrs on 29.09.2025
For details log on : www.gem.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Bengaluru
PUB/452/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Moblie App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-Tender Notice No. COMML/MYS/09/2025 Dated : 28.08.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of Work
Tender invited for appointment of halt agent at Bettadanagenahalli train halt station situated between Chitradurga and Chikjajur Section for a period of five years

Last date for Submission of bids : Upto 15.00 hrs on 13.10.2025
For details log on : www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
Senior Divisional Commercial Managar, Mysuru
PUB/455/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
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CORRIGENDUM
Refer to our E-Auction Sale Notice Advertisement published in account of Narayanswamy M in The Hindu and Udayakala With regards to the sale notice published on 10.09.2025 Additional property address is to read as : All that piece and parcel of agricultural land of 5 Acres at Sy. No. 6/P3-P1 at Masthenahalli village, Srinivasapura Tk, Kolar district bounded on East by: Propery of Shamalamma and H Narayanagowda West by: Own property and Property No. 6/13 Block North by: Road South by: Property of Venkateshappa.
All other terms and conditions will remain the Same.
Place : Bangalore
Date : 13.09.2025
Authorized Officer Canara Bank

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/137/2025 dated 25.08.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Auction for the following work.

Sl.No.	Item of Work	Approx.Value
1.	Construction of 2 lane Road over Bridge along with LHS as 1x4.0 x2.50 m RCC Box (By BOX pushing method) in lieu of LC No 44 at Km: 75/300-400 with 1x30m Composite Girder (Railway portion) + 03x18.71m PSC Girder towards Bengaluru- Honnavaar Highway and 08x18.71m PSC Girder towards Heggere Village and Retaining wall on both sides of ROB merging lengths between Heggere Halt and Mallsandra stations including Electrical works (Composite work)	Rs. 21,32,27,983/-

Last date for Submission of bids : Upto 15.00 hrs on 03.10.2025
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works, Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/457/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25
Download the UTS Moblie App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
All INDIA PENSION ADALAT-2025
South Western Railway will be holding **All India Pension Adalat-2025** simultaneously at the offices of Headquarters, Divisions, Workshops & Bengaluru Construction on **Monday, 15th December 2025,** pertaining to grievances of Retired Employees/ Dependants of deceased employees in respect of Pension, Settlement dues & Medical Allowance.
Last date for receipt of Applications for the Adalat will be **06.11.2025.** It may be noted that the grievances received after the closure date i.e; **06.11.2025,** may not be possible to be dealt in the All India Pension Adalat-2025.
For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
Principal Chief Personnel Officer Hubballi
PUB/466/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM NO. 1/2025-26
No. NWR-All0ADMIN(GENS)/45/2025 Date: 12.09.2025
The tender notice No. GSUAII-PH53-DRB-SHED-25 (Development of Goods Shed, complete surfacing, drainage system, boundary wall, covering shed, lighting & Good Shed CC, PF, Approach Road, Drainage, Drinking Water, Rest Room Goods Office, Customer Hall Etc and all kind of Electrical General work" of Ajmer Division) invited by this office which was published on 06.09.2025 is amended as follows:-

Sr. No.	Condition Type	Existing Condition (As published) in "Special Condition Criteria"	Revised Condition (To be read as) in "Special Condition Criteria"
1	Special Technical Criteria	Similar Nature of Work for Electric/ General work is defined as "Any Electrical work related to HT/LT installation"	Similar Nature of Work for Electric/ General work is defined as "Any Electrical work related to HT/LT installation" (Cost of component is Rs. 1,33,92,225.00)
2	Special Technical Criteria	Bidders are advised to submit the technical eligibility documents to separately meet/ fulfill the cost of component for each similar nature of work as defined above.	Bidders are advised to submit the technical eligibility documents to separately meet / fulfill the cost of component for each similar nature of work as defined above.

All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged.
1164-DK/25
Dy.CE/GSU, NWR, Ajmer
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Authorized Officer's Details:
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Mobile No: 9148103793
Land Line No. (Office): 080-25943489
Address of the Branch:
2nd Floor, Office Complex Building,SBI LHO Campus, No. 65, St. Mark's Road, Bengaluru -560 001
Telephone: 080 -25943470 to 3490
E-mail Id: sbi.04209@sbi.co.in

APPENDIX – IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
E-AUCTION SALE ON 09.10.2025
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgager that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of State Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As Is Where Is", "As Is What Is" and "Whatever There Is" basis on 09.10.2025 for recovery of Rs.39,43,56,187.00 (Rupees Thirty Nine Crore Forty Three Lakh Fifty Six Thousand One Hundred and Eighty Seven Only)as on 30.06.2025 and further interest at contractual rate from 01.07.2025 with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc., due to the State Bank of India, Secured Creditor from the Borrowers and the Guarantors:
The Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit and Bid Increment Amount will be as under:

Property No.	Reserve Price (Below which the properties will not be sold)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Bid increment amount	Time & Date of e-Auction
SBIN200032618391	Rs.28,12,00,000/-	Rs.2,81,20,000/-	Rs.500,000/-	From 11:00am to 4:00pm on 09.10.2025

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES (Immovable Assets)
Tender No.: SBIN200032618391
Reserve Price (Amt in Rs.): Rs.28,12,00,000/-
ITEM NO.1 :All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Old Survey No.69/1 New Survey No.69/3, Situated at Marase Village, Varuna Hobli, Mysuru Taluk and District Duly Converted for the Non-Agricultural residential use Vide Order No.ALN(3)CR:117:2013-14 dated 13.01.2014 Official Memorandum issued by Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru
MEASURING. 0.35 ½ Gunta of Converted Land.BOUNDED ON
East By: Survey No.68, West By : Survey No.69/2, North By: Survey No.70 , South By: Survey No.69/1
(CARE:Schedule as per the Registered Sale Deed Executed Favour of Shri.Ajith Narayan K and Shri.Shriram K & Registered before Sub-registrar, Mysuru North Vide Document No.MYN-1-3341-2005-06 Stored In CD NO.MYND 47 in Book No.1 and the same is Registered On 02.06.2005 and also the Boundary of the Survey Number is as per The Official Memorandum Issued By Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru Vide their Order Dated 13.01.2014)
ITEM NO. 2 : All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Old Survey No.69/2 New Survey No.69/4, Situated at Marase Village, Varuna Hobli, Mysuru Taluk and District Duly Converted for the Non-Agricultural residential use Vide Order No.ALN(3)CR:118:2013-14 dated 13.01.2014 Official Memorandum issued by Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru.
Measuring1 Acre 26.06 Gunta of converted land Bounded on: East By: Survey No.69/1, West By: Survey No.79 and 80, North By: Survey No.70 South By: Survey No.69/2
(CARE:Schedule as per the Registered Sale Deed executed favour of Shri.Ajith Narayan K And Shri.Shriram K & Registered Before Sub-registrar, Mysuru North Vide Document No.MYN-1-3341-2005-06 Stored In CD No.MYND47 in Book No.1 and the same is Registered on 02.06.2005 and also the boundary of the Survey Number is as per the Official Memorandum issued by Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru vide their Order Dated 13.01.2014)
CONSOLIDATED PROPERTY ; All the piece and parcel of the Property Bearing Old Survey No.69/1 New Survey No.69/3 AND Old Survey No.69/2 New Survey No.69/4, Situated at Marase Village, Varuna Hobli, Mysuru Taluk and District - Total Area 9890.18 Square Meters (As per the Single Site Residential Plan Approval letter issued by MUDA, Mysuru vide MUDA:NAYOG:58:2014-15 Dated 16.09.2014)Total Area 9890.18 Square Meters and 16 Villas Built on the Schedule Mentioned Property Are Mortgaged to the Bank.
The Details are as under:-

Sl. No.	Villa No.	Measurement Total Area/Plinth Area/ Carpet Area	Measurement Situated at Survey No. 69/3 & Survey No. 69/4	Boundaries East by	Boundaries West by	Boundaries North by	Boundaries South by
01	01	1600-800-1350	Marase Village, Varuna Hobli, Mysuru Taluk & District.	Villa No.2	Generator Yard & Compound	Swimming Pool & Garden	Drive Way
02	02	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 3	Villa No. 1	Swimming Pool & Garden	Drive Way
03	05	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 6	Villa No. 4	Swimming Pool & Garden	Drive Way
04	06	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 7	Villa No. 5	Swimming Pool & Garden	Drive Way
05	11	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 12	Villa No. 10	Swimming Pool & Garden	Drive Way
06	21	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 20	Villa No. 22	Drive Way	Swimming Pool & Garden
07	22	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 21	Villa No. 23	Drive Way	Swimming Pool & Garden
08	26	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 25	Villa No. 27	Drive Way	Swimming Pool & Garden
09	28	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 27	Villa No. 29	Drive Way	Swimming Pool & Garden
10	29	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 28	Villa No. 30	Drive Way	Swimming Pool & Garden
11	30	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 29	Swimming Pool & Garden	Drive Way	Villa No. 31
12	31	1600-800-1350	- do -	Garden & Compound	Swimming Pool & Garden	Villa No. 30	Villa No. 32
13	32	1600-800-1350	- do -	Garden & Compound	Swimming Pool & Garden	Villa No. 31	Villa No. 33
14	33	1600-800-1350	- do -	Garden & Compound	Swimming Pool & Garden	Villa No. 32	Garden & Compound
15	37	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 36	Villa No. 38	Swimming Pool/Garden	Garden & Compound
16	40	1600-800-1350	- do -	Villa No. 39	Villa No. 41	Swimming Pool/Garden	Garden & Compound

12 Villas built on the Schedule Mentioned Property are mortgaged to the bank.

	Villa No.	Measurement in Meter E-W	Measurement in Meter N-S	Boundaries East	Boundaries West	Boundaries North	Boundaries South
17	12	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 13	Villa No. 11	Swimming Pool	Road
18	13	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 14	Villa No. 12	Swimming Pool	Road
19	14	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 15	Villa No. 13	Swimming Pool	Road
20	15	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 16	Villa No. 14	Swimming Pool	Road
21	16	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 17	Villa No. 15	Swimming Pool	Road
22	17	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 18	Villa No. 16	Swimming Pool	Road
23	18	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 19	Villa No. 17	Swimming Pool	Road
24	19	7.83336	9.144	Garden	Villa No. 17	Swimming Pool	Road
25	20	7.83336	9.144	STP	Villa No. 21	Road	Swimming Pool
26	23	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 22	Villa No. 24	Road	Swimming Pool
27	24	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 23	Villa No. 25	Road	Swimming Pool
28	25	9.30	7.77	Villa No. 24	Villa No. 26	Road	Swimming Pool

CONSOLIDATED PROPERTY
Vacant land measuring 106121.63sq.ft. area with 28 pool villas numbering 1,2,5,6,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 37 & 40 measuring 44,800 sq.ft. built up area, Club house measuring 4627.66 sq.ft., Rooms block measuring 3200 sq.ft., Banquet hall measuring 9595 sq.ft., Reception and Back office measuring 108.05 sq.ft., Gents and Ladies toilet measuring 51.37 sq.ft. and Extra items and amenities like Compound wall, M.S. Gate, Pavement, cobal pavement, landscaping, Swimming pool (main pool, Gym building and equipments, Security room, STP, OHT, Sump, bore well, water softener, pressure pump etc. in Sy no 69/3 and 69/4 situated at Marase village, Varuna Hobli, Mysore Taluk.
Note: Excluding undivided share of land pertaining to remaining villas not under Mortgage to the bank.
The sale shall be subject to provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
For further details regarding inspection of the property the intending bidder may contact the Authorized Officer, State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Management Branch, 2nd Floor, Office Complex Building, SBI LHO Campus, No. 65, St. Mark's Road, Bengaluru -560 001, Telephone: 080-25943470 to 3490.
To the best of knowledge of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on any of the above said properties. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in PSB Alliance Pvt Limited,https: baanknet.in
Date: 11.09.2025
Place: Bengaluru
Assistant General Manager &Authorized Officer
State Bank of India,
Stressed Asset Management Branch, Bengaluru

Major loss: Truck drivers display rotten apples discarded along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway in Qazigund.

Stranded produce: Truck drivers and traders separate rotten apples as the floods left thousands of boxes stranded on the highway.

Some relief: A policeman checks apple boxes before they are loaded onto a railway parcel van at Budgam Railway Station.

Fruit on the move: An apple truck waits next to a railway parcel van on September 11 as the Indian Railways begins daily train services to help the produce reach markets.

Awaiting dispatch: The launch of a daily parcel train service to Delhi came as a big relief to the apple growers. One parcel van can carry 23 tonnes of apples.

Father, daughter killed as speeding truck ploughs into vehicles

A couple and their minor child who were in a car that was among the vehicles hit had a narrow escape and it was captured on CCTV camera

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A view of the autorickshaw that was completely damaged after it was hit by a speeding truck at Sumanahalli junction in Bengaluru on Saturday.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

Two persons were killed after a speeding truck lost control and ran over a series of vehicles at the busy Sumanahalli junction on Saturday morning, while a couple and their minor child had a narrow escape.

According to the police, the truck, heading from the industrial area, lost control due to suspected brake failure and ploughed into a bike, autorickshaw and a car at the junction.

The deceased have been identified as Yesu D., 45, an autorickshaw driver, and his daughter, Mariya Jennifer, 24, residents of Harohalli. They were reportedly heading to church as Jennifer had recently gotten engaged.

Yesu's wife was supposed to join them, but could not as she did not get off from work, the police said.

Yesu and Jennifer died on the spot as the autorickshaw was mangled by the impact.

The couple who escaped the accident were travelling in a car. Vijay, a private firm employee, was driving the car with his pregnant wife and three-year-old child on board, and they were heading to the hospital for a routine check-up.

He moved the car to the extreme left and escaped narrowly. The bike which was also hit by the truck was completely damaged.

According to the police, the truck, heading from the industrial area, lost control due to suspected brake failure and ploughed into a bike, an auto and a car

The driver fled the scene following the accident. Passers-by rushed to the victims' help, and the driver, sensing trouble, escaped.

The Kamakshipalya traffic police seized the truck and registered a case of death due to negligence and rash and negligent driving against the driver.

In another incident, a 45-year-old woman pedestrian was killed when a speeding truck ran over her on Cottonpet Mill Road in Chamarajapet traffic police station limits on Friday.

The victim, identified as Anjana Devi, was walking with her friend on the narrow lane when the speeding truck came from behind and ran over her. While Anjana Devi came under the truck, her friend narrowly escaped unhurt.

The incident was captured on the CCTV camera installed nearby.

The driver of the truck, identified as Kiran, was arrested.

21 students booked for submitting fake PH certificates to claim medical seats

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Malleswaram police have registered an FIR against 21 students who allegedly submitted fake physically handicapped certificates to claim medical seats during the PG NEET counselling held recently.

Based on the complaint filed by Administrative Officer Islahuddin J Gadyal, the students were booked under Sections 318 (cheating), 336 (forgery), 338 (forgery of valuable securities, wills, or authority to adopt a son, along with forgery of documents to receive money, property, or dividends), 340 (use of a forged document or electronic record as if it were genuine), 341 (making or possessing of a counterfeit seal, plate, or other instrument with the intent to commit forgery) and 61 (criminal conspiracy) under BNS on Monday.

According to the complaint, the candidates, while applying for medical seats, did not opt PH category initially and later applied online during the revision provision claiming that they have hearing impairment.

As per the rules, the KEA, through the Directorate of Medical Education Committee, sent the candidates for the tests to Victoria Hospital and NIMHANS on July 17 to undergo an audiogram and a BERA (Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response) test. The accused candidates submitted the copies, which, upon cross-checking, were found to be fake.

The reports submitted allegedly had forged signatures of doctors and authorities, which were originally from the

According to the complaint, the candidates, while applying for medical seats, did not opt PH category initially and later applied online.

During probe, the parents of three candidates made a written submission that four persons had helped them in creating fake certificates

general hospital in Hosapete. The authority concerned, after scrutiny, submitted a report to the KEA.

The KEA summoned the parents of three among the 21 candidates and conducted a probe, who made a written submission that four persons, identified as Bharamappa, Rajanna, Chandrashekhar, and Channakeshava, had helped them to create fake certificates and sourced them through Hosapete general hospital, Vijayanagar. The police have initiated investigations to track down the source of the racket. The police have summoned the parents of the candidates and the four touts who were part of the racket for further investigation.

Policemen in the dock for harassing man to sell his site

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An inspector and constable attached to Kodigehalli station are in the dock for allegedly booking a false case against a private firm employee to pressurise and torture him into selling his site to a neighbour.

The victim, Sanjay K.N., a resident of Kodigehalli, got out on bail and filed a complaint with the Deputy Commissioner of Police, North East Division, seeking action against the erring police officer for misusing power for their personal gain.

In his complaint filed on Thursday, Sanjay said that he owned a site in NTI layout 2nd stage and his neighbour, identified as Chetan, was eyeing it. The accused allegedly pestered him to sell his site and threatened him with dire consequences. Chetan later through Inspector Muthuraj allegedly filed a false case of forgery against Sanjay and summoned him to the station on the pretext of inquiry and forced him to sell the site.

When Sanjay refused, the Inspector allegedly registered an FIR and took him into 14 days of police custody to torture and harass him to sell the site.

The victim out on bail filed a complaint with the DCP, North East Division

He further alleged that a police constable close to the Inspector took ₹2 lakh from Sanjay's brother to ensure no physical torture was meted out to Sanjay in custody.

Unable to bear the harassment, Sanjay approached the senior police officials seeking help and blamed the police officials responsible for any eventualities that may happen to him.

Investment fraud: Businessman, elderly woman lose ₹1.3 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 53-year-old businessman and an elderly woman lured by a prominent company's name allegedly lost a total of ₹1.3 crore to online investment fraud and approached the East Division Cyber Crime Police seeking help.

The businessman, in his complaint on Thursday, said that he received a WhatsApp message on his mobile on July 17, from an unknown number, sharing a "Reliance Capital Limited Primary Market Account Registration Form".

They asked him to deposit ₹50,000 promising higher returns in a day's time. Out of curiosity, he invested the money and saw a 5% profit the next day.

He wanted to sell the shares, but the other investors in the group suggested him to continue and go for higher investment. Following the advice, he invested a huge sum of money and realised that he has been trapped.

In his complaint, he said that he was allotted a total of 42,381 shares after making the payment of ₹18,99,940.23. They asked him to close the trade and showed the profit of 120%.

"When I applied for the 2nd IPO (Initial Public Offering), I was allotted 1,09,824 shares and the amount required was ₹81,09,404.16. I was short of ₹35,01,000 and I told them that I would not be able to pay this amount. They said that if I didn't pay the remaining money, the amount could not be refunded. So, I borrowed the rest of the amount to pay," he stated in the complaint, adding that they offered him short-term loan for the shortage and asked him to repay within five days, and told him that he can withdraw all the money.

"When I repaid the amount, they asked me to sell the IPO and showed the total profit amount to ₹1,26,28,000. After this, they told me to apply for the withdrawal of the money and asked me to pay 15% brokerage charges of the profit amount, that is ₹11,00,000," the victim said in his complaint.

After paying the amount, they told to pay 10% custodian charges of ₹12,00,000. This is when he got a doubt and enquired with his friends and they told him that it was a trap.

Another incident

In a similar incident, a 63-year-old retired employee and resident of Kodihalli, lost ₹76 lakh to similar *modus operandi* and filed a complaint with the East Division Cyber Crime Police on Thursday.

She came in contact with the accused who added her to a "Reliance user exclusive service Group" on July 2. She started investing in pull up stocks, Block trade and IPOc (Initial public Offering) worth ₹76,55,264.

In her complaint, she said that she stopped the investment on August 22, and asked for withdrawal of the amount and was told to pay 10% brokerage amount for the profit gained. She requested them to deduct the brokerage amount from her account, but they insisted on paying the brokerage amount seprately.

25-year-old bludgeoned to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 25-year-old labourer was bludgeoned to death allegedly by his friend over a financial row in Karlapura under Rajankunte Police Station limits on Friday.

The deceased has been identified as Gangaraju, while Srinivasa, the accused, is reportedly on the run.

The duo reportedly got drunk and started arguing over a financial dispute on Friday night. The argument took an ugly turn when Srinivasa picked up an iron rod and attacked Gangaraju, the police said. The victim sustained severe head injuries, collapsed, and died of excessive bleeding, the police added.

The Rajankunte Police have registered a case of murder and efforts are on to track down the accused.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, SEP. 14		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:21
RISE	24:00	SET 12:27
MONDAY, SEP. 15		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:21
RISE	00:00	SET 13:29
TUESDAY, SEP. 16		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:20
RISE	01:02	SET 14:26

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	24
Mysuru	29	19
Bengaluru	28	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

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THE HINDU
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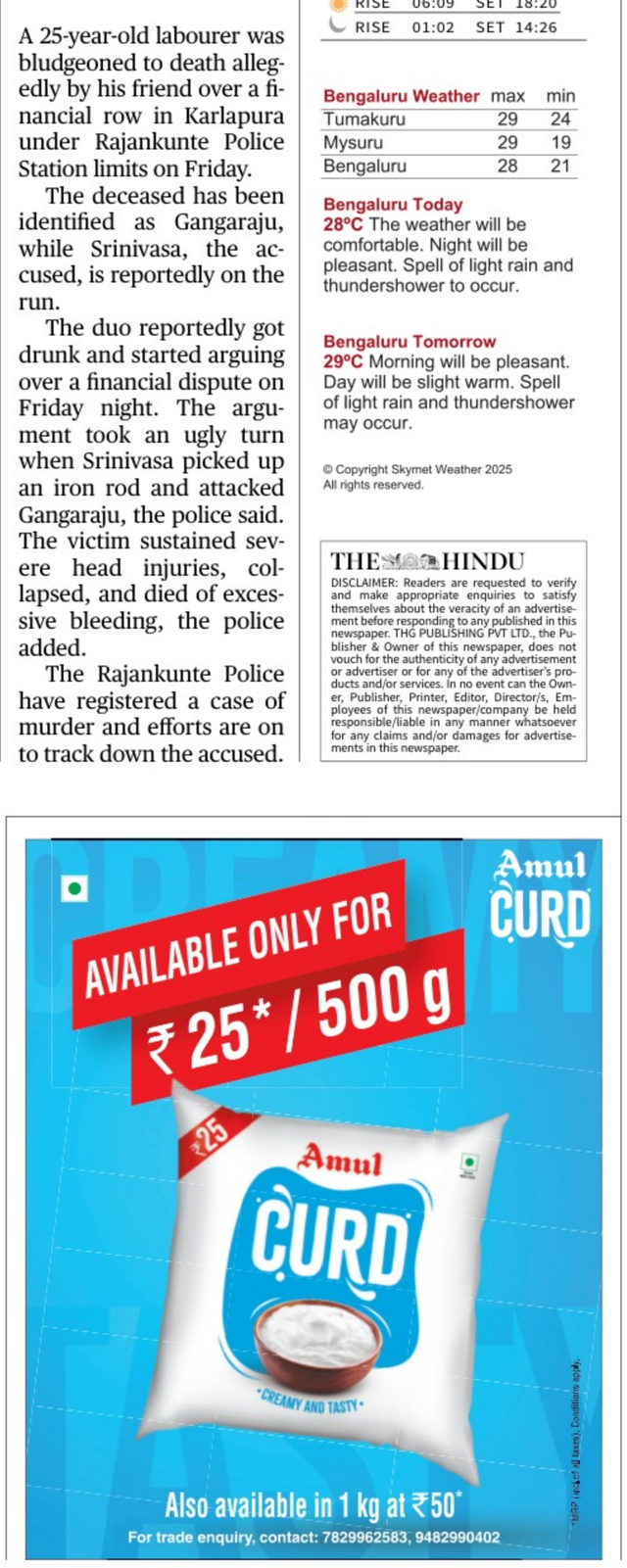

Dermatologists flag rampant anti-fungal resistance as fungal infections rise in city

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The damp weather and humid conditions after recent rains in Bengaluru have triggered a marked rise in fungal infections. Dermatologists warn that these infections are becoming increasingly difficult to treat due to growing anti-fungal resistance.

Superficial fungal infections such as tinea or ringworm are confined to the outermost layers of the skin, hair, or nails and do not invade deeper tissues or organs.

At ESIC Model Hospital in Rajajinagar, M.S. Girish, Senior Specialist and Head of Dermatology, said fungal infections now account for a significant share of his daily outpatient load. "Of about 120 patients I see in the OPD every day, around 30 come with fungal infections. Every fourth patient I see daily has a fungal infection and nearly 30% of these cases do not respond to basic medication," he said.

Self-medication

According to Dr. Girish, self-medication and over-the-counter availability of anti-fungal creams are major drivers of resistance. "When used in large quantities or for prolonged durations, the fungus grows resistant. It is similar to anti-microbial resistance," he explained.

Dr. Girish noted that incomplete treatment worsens infections. "Patients stop treatment once symptoms disappear, but relapse is common and often more severe. Some creams have less than the required anti-fungal strength, and repeated use builds resistance, forcing us to opt for advanced treatment," he said.

Raising concerns over steroid-based creams, he said an unacceptable combination of topical steroids with anti-fungals is being used. "Overuse of steroids thins the skin. Itching may reduce temporarily, but this is not a solution," he said.

To address this, the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists, and Leprologists (IADVL) has issued a "Rule of Two." Patients are advised to apply antifungal creams twice daily for at least two weeks after visible lesions have resolved, extending the application two centimetres beyond the infected area to ensure complete eradication and prevent recurrence.

Shireen Furtado, Senior Consultant, Medical and Cosmetic Dermatology, at Aster CMI Hospital, said she is seeing a steady rise in patients with recurring fungal infections.

"Ringworm, athlete's foot, and nail fungus are becoming very common, and many cases are harder to treat than before. The main reason is that the fungus is slowly becoming resistant to the medicines we usually prescribe," she said.

She stressed that misuse of creams and premature stoppage of medication fuel relapses. "Many people buy medicines directly from the pharmacy. Some contain steroids, which give temporary relief but worsen infections. Patients also stop treatment once itching or redness subsides, though the fungus remains and quickly grows back," she explained.

Lifestyle and prevention

Dr. Furtado added that lifestyle factors are also contributing. "The damp and humid climate, sweating, tight clothes, and unhygienic practices add to the rise. Shared spaces like gyms, hostels, and swimming pools make it easy for fungus to spread," she said.

Both doctors emphasised the need for public awareness and responsible use of anti-fungal medicines. Patients should consult a dermatologist instead of self-treating, complete the prescribed course, and follow preventive measures such as keeping skin dry, wearing clean clothes, and not sharing towels.

Dementia awareness event

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Dementia India Alliance (DIA), in collaboration with the Center for Brain Research (CBR), Nightingales Medical Trust, and VayahVikas, hosted "The Memory Dialogue: Science, Care and Community", here on Saturday.

Attended by 190 persons, including senior citizens, caregivers, and healthcare professionals, the event was a key part of World Alzheimer's Month activities. Its primary goal was to bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and community needs by empowering individuals with information on dementia prevention and guiding families in providing care.

Dr. Jonas Sundarakumar and Dr. Thomas Issac from CBR led a session on "Building Brain Health," emphasising lifestyle choices such as physical activity and mental stimulation as protective factors.

The dialogue featured experts and caregivers discussing the importance of early diagnosis and community support for those living with dementia. A Brain Health Fair offered free memory screenings , reinforcing the event's focus on practical support.

Central Commissioner joins volunteers in cleaning footpath in Majestic area

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a social media influencer shared videos highlighting the poor condition of footpaths around Majestic, Central Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan joined hands with volunteers to clean the area on Saturday.

In a video shared by the Commissioner's office, Mr. Cholan with the volunteers, was seen cleaning the stretch and having breakfast later on the footpath. Influencer Caleb Friesen was also seen in the video.

During the inspection, Mr. Cholan instructed officials to plant and maintain saplings next to the footpaths, arrange seating for pedestrians, provide space for protest at Freedom Park multi-level car parking when not in use, control parking on surrounding roads, remove unauthorised OFC cables, repair damaged chamber slabs near Anand Rao Circle, maintain cleanliness near public toilets, and take action against roadside littering. The commissioner mentioned that plans are under way to completely transform the 5-6 km stretch in collaboration with NGOs, and citizen groups.

ODISHA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD (OSAMB)
(A Statutory Organization of Govt. of Odisha)

Plot No.1800 (P), Baramunda, Post-Khandagiri, Near Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Bhubaneswar.
Ph.No.0674-2952410, Email : osamboard99@yahoo.com

No.01-2025/OSAMB/Engg.7/2020 Dated : 14.09.2023

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR " SELECTION OF PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (PgMC) FOR PROVIDING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS OF ODISHA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD (OSAM BOARD) "

"Selection of Programme Management Consultant (PgMC) for Providing Engineering Services for Various Projects of Odisha State Agricultural Marketing Board (OSAM Board)"

The RFP documents covering the details of information, eligibility criteria, selection process and other terms & conditions can be downloaded from https://osamb.odisha.gov.in and https://coop.odisha.gov.in from 14.09.2025. The last date for submitting the RFP documents along with processing fees of Rs.11,800/- (Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight hundred) only in shape of DD in favour of "General Manager, OSAM Board" payable at Bhubaneswar through regd / speed post is 04.10.2025 by 4.00 P.M. The technical bids will be opened on 06.10.2025 at 11.30 A.M. The date of opening of financial bids will be intimated subsequently. The Authority reserves the right to reject any / all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
General Manager,
OSAM Board, Bhubaneswar

CAD-: OIPR-01444/11/0010/2526

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BUSINESS OFFERS

FINANCE

LOAN AGAINST Property International Project no cibil larger unit Business,above 10Cr@3%–6% PA wealthwave2011@gmail.com 6374714923/6374093069

CORPORATE FUNDING, Business Loan Above 10 CR, South India. 7358739109

IMMDT FINANCE Against Properties, Projects, Business,Cheque. 8925097664

RENTAL

RENTAL – RESIDENTIAL

K R PURAM

To-Let (For Lease only) North Facing 2 BHK Semi Furnished Flat is for Lease SRS White Pearl Apartment Flat No.A-305, Opposite Kithaganur Panchayath Office Kithagnur Main Road, KR Puram, Bangalore. Contact: 9441181124, 8328460672

INDUSTRIAL NEEDS

CHEMICAL EQUIPMENTS.– Sale, 1. S.S. Reactor 1000 L Cap. 2. Micropulveriser 3. Ball mill 5 ft long and 4ft dia with full assembly. 9443628192

THE HINDU GROUP

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This year's edition stands as a testament to their enduring spirit and celebrates the power of ideas that move beyond individuals to transform the course of our collective future.

CHIEF GUEST
Shri Hardeep Singh Puri
Honourable Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India

TIME **6 pm Onwards**
DATE **September 26**
LOCATION **Mumbai**

SASTRA DEEMED UNIVERSITY
THANJAVUR - KUMBAKONAM - CHENNAI

Presents

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Girder work for Blue Line depot entry at Benniganahalli begins

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Blue Line will link Kempegowda International Airport in the north and Central Silk Board junction in the south.

After a delay of nearly one-and-a-half months, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has commenced the erection of composite girders for the Blue Line depot entry at Benniganahalli from Friday night. The work resumed following mandatory approval from South Western Railway (SWR).

According to officials, BMRCL has been permitted to proceed under the provisions of the Indian Railway Schedule of Dimensions and the AC Traction Manual. "The work will be executed by the BMRCL under railway supervision," an official said.

The project had been stalled since late July as the railway zone had not granted night track block, power block, and speed restriction approvals needed for girder launching over the Salem railway line. "The delay has impacted timelines for the Central Silk Board-Baiyappanahalli stretch of the ORR Metro Blue Line," another official said.

In February this year, BMRCL successfully launched four composite steel girders across the Salem Bridge between the ISRO and Doddanekundi metro stations. That operation, considered a critical milestone for Phase 2A of the project, involved complex engineering given the active railway alignment.

The ORR-Airport Metro, also called the Blue Line, is one of Bengaluru's most ambitious metro corridors. It is scheduled for completion by December 2027 and spans 58.19 km, linking Central Silk Board Junction in the south with Kempegowda International Airport in the north.

The line is divided into two sections: Phase 2A, covering 19.75 km from Silk Board to Krishnarajapura (K.R. Puram), and Phase 2B, a 38.44-km stretch from K.R. Puram to the airport. Together, they will provide an uninterrupted metro corridor along the city's Outer Ring Road (ORR) and onward to the airport.

Karnataka Ratna: Fans upset over delayed honour for Vishnuvardhan, Saroja Devi

While poet Kuvempu was the first recipient of Karnataka's highest civilian honour in 1992, Puneeth Rajkumar, who passed away at 45 owing to a cardiac arrest, was the last person to be conferred the award in 2022

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

Soon after legendary actors Vishnuvardhan and B. Saroja Devi were posthumously conferred with the Karnataka Ratna, fans were upset with the Karnataka government over the "delayed recognition" of gifted artists from the film industry.

B. Saroja Devi

Vishnuvardhan

Long overdue
The general consensus, as summed up from posts on social media, is that the award – the highest civilian honour of Karnataka – was long overdue for these actors who have contributed immensely to the industry.

"Vishnuvardhan is one of the main pillars of the Kannada film industry," filmmaker Dinesh Baboo told *The Hindu* about the veteran actor who starred in over 220 movies since his debut in 1972. The actor passed away at 59 in 2009.

Saroja Devi, known as the female superstar of Kannada cinema, passed away in July this year. Inspiring generations with her talent and grace, she acted in over 200 films across languages during her six-decade career.

"Rewarding someone posthumously isn't the right way to treat our artists," pointed out National Award-winning film-maker P. Sheshadri.

Seasoned film-maker Rajendra Singh Babu echoed Sheshadri's opinion. "Posthumous awards act as a welcome relief to fans and family of the awardees. However, for the decades of efforts put in by the actors or technicians, it's better that they are awarded during their lifetime," he said.

> The Karnataka Ratna should be given every year, like the Dadasaheb Phalke honour. That way, the government can maintain consistency
> **RAJENDRA SINGH BABU,** Film-maker

Talented artists are put in a situation where they end up asking for an award, said Sheshadri.

Instituted in 1992, the award is for honouring a person's extraordinary contribution to a particular field. While Jnanpith Award-winning poet Kuvempu was the first recipient, Puneeth Rajkumar, who passed away at the age of 45 owing to a cardiac arrest, was the last person to be conferred the award in 2022.

> It's not clear if the award [Karnataka Ratna] is given for the experience of a person or for his contribution to the field
> **P. SHESHADRI,** National Award-winning film-maker

Senior film-makers feel the process of choosing candidates for the Karnataka Ratna should be streamlined.

"It's not clear if the award is given for the experience of a person or for his contribution to the field," Sheshadri reasoned, adding that producers such as N. Veeraswamy and Dwarakish are worthy of being honoured with the award.

Rajendra Singh Babu said that Karnataka Ratna should follow the Dadasaheb Phalke Award model. "The Karnataka Ratna should be given every year, like the Dadasaheb Phalke honour. That way, the government can maintain consistency."

Actor-filmmaker T.S. Nagabharana, who has served as a committee member for the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, also felt the Phalke model must be tried in Karnataka.

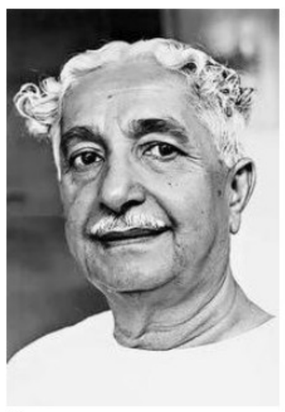
"A panel to finalise the candidate will be a good option," he said, adding that the State must look beyond the field of art to recognise talented personalities. "People from literature and science have made Karnataka proud," said Nagabharana. As for films and theatre, he said it's high time well-known figures such as Hunsur Krishnamurthy, G.V. Iyer, and actor-producer Jayanthi received the recognition.

Push for Bharat Ratna for Kuvempu puts focus on his value system

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

The Congress government's recent move to recommend to the Union government to confer the Bharat Ratna posthumously on Kuvempu, a towering personality of Kannada literature, puts the focus not just on his works but also his emphasis on rationality and human values.

State song and more
No other writer of the 20th century influenced Kannada minds as he did and no student in Karnataka in the last seven or eight decades finished his schooling without reading his writings.


Kuvempu

The poem he wrote in 1928, *Jai Bharata Jananiya Tanujate*, when he was hardly 24, became the State song in 2004.

Kuvempu was the first writer from Kannada to receive the Jnanpith Award (1967) for his epic poem *Sri Ramayana Darshanam*.

S. Bangarappa, during his time as Chief Minister in 1992, honoured Kuvempu with the Karnataka Ratna award. He was the first to receive the honour.

During his lifetime, a university established in Shivamogga was named after Kuvempu. Many cities in the State have localities named after him. In 2023, the BJP government decided to name the newly-built airport in Shivamogga after him.

The Karnataka government has built a memorial for him at his birthplace Kuppali, in Tirthahalli taluk, which is visited by thousands of schoolchildren, besides tourists.

Scientific temper
Importantly, through his writings and speeches, Kuvempu propagated rationality and scientific temperament. His speech titled *Vicharakrantige Ahvana* – an invitation to revolutionary thinking – delivered at the annual convocation of Bengaluru University (1974), is one of his widely read essays.

In the speech, he stresses the importance of rational thinking and scientific temperament and highlights the need for dismantling the caste system.

Kuvempu's another significant contribution to "Literature of Thought" is his Vishwamanava Sandesha – Message of Universal Human.

His message promotes universal brotherhood, relieving human beings from all constraints of caste, gender, religion, and nationality.

Not only his writings, but his actions have also left an indelible impression on the Kannada psyche. For instance, to propagate simple marriages without rituals, he came up with the concept of Mantra Mangalya.

In colleges
During the Congress' previous tenure (2013-18), Kuvempu Bhashabharathi Pradhikara, an authority meant for translation works, brought out a book, *Kuvempu Odu*, a collection of select writings of Kuvempu. The authority conducted workshops in degree colleges on Kuvempu's writings across the State.

Through the event, the students were encouraged to understand the importance of rationality, scientific temperament, and counter caste-based inequality, among others.

Now, again, the authority is conducting similar programmes in colleges. Many in the Congress consider the writings of Kuvempu as a tool to counter the agenda of the BJP.

Pavithrotsavams at temple from Sept. 17

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sri Venkateshwara Swamy Temple, Vyalikaval, will celebrate *Pavithrotsavams* from September 17 to 19. Rituals will be held in two sessions daily–from 8.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. at TTD Information Centre, 16th Cross.

Devotees can participate in the seva by purchasing tickets priced at ₹1,000, which admits two persons per ticket.

BDA to explore possibility of providing autos for free to women, transgender drivers

> It is important that women and transgender persons, once trained, are provided autos for free by the government. This will enable them to begin their professional journey with dignity and achieve financial independence
> **N.A. HARIS,** Bangalore Development Authority Chairman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) Chairman N.A. Haris, on Saturday, said that he would hold discussions with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to explore the possibility of providing autorickshaws for free to women and transgender persons who successfully complete training in auto-driving.

Mr. Haris, who is also MLA for Shantinagar constituency, was speaking at the launch of a "Free Auto-Driving Training Programme for Transgender Persons and Women in Shantinagar constituency," organised by BPAC in collaboration with CGI at the Kala Kendra in MG Road Metro Station.

"It is important that women and transgender persons, once trained, are provided autos for free by the government. This will enable them to begin their professional journey with dignity and achieve financial independence," Mr. Haris said.

Women empowerment
Highlighting the social impact of the initiative, Geetanjali Vikram Kirloskar, MD of Kirloskar Systems Pvt. Ltd., said the entry of women and transgender persons into the city's autorickshaw fleet would not only empower them, but also encourage women commuters to travel more confidently at night. "It is commendable that women and transgender persons are coming forward to take up auto-driving. Their presence in public transport will encourage more women to travel confidently at night. Bengaluru should set a national example in inclusive mobility."

Outlining the programme's expansion, Revathy Ashok, managing trustee and CEO of BPAC, said that the second phase would train over 100 participants. "Beyond driving, we will equip them with leadership, English communication, customer service, digital literacy, and financial skills," she said.

Realtor booked for encroaching Rayasandra lake

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Parappana Agarahara police on Friday registered an FIR against a city-based realtor for allegedly encroaching Rayasandra lake to construct a layout and houses using forged documents.

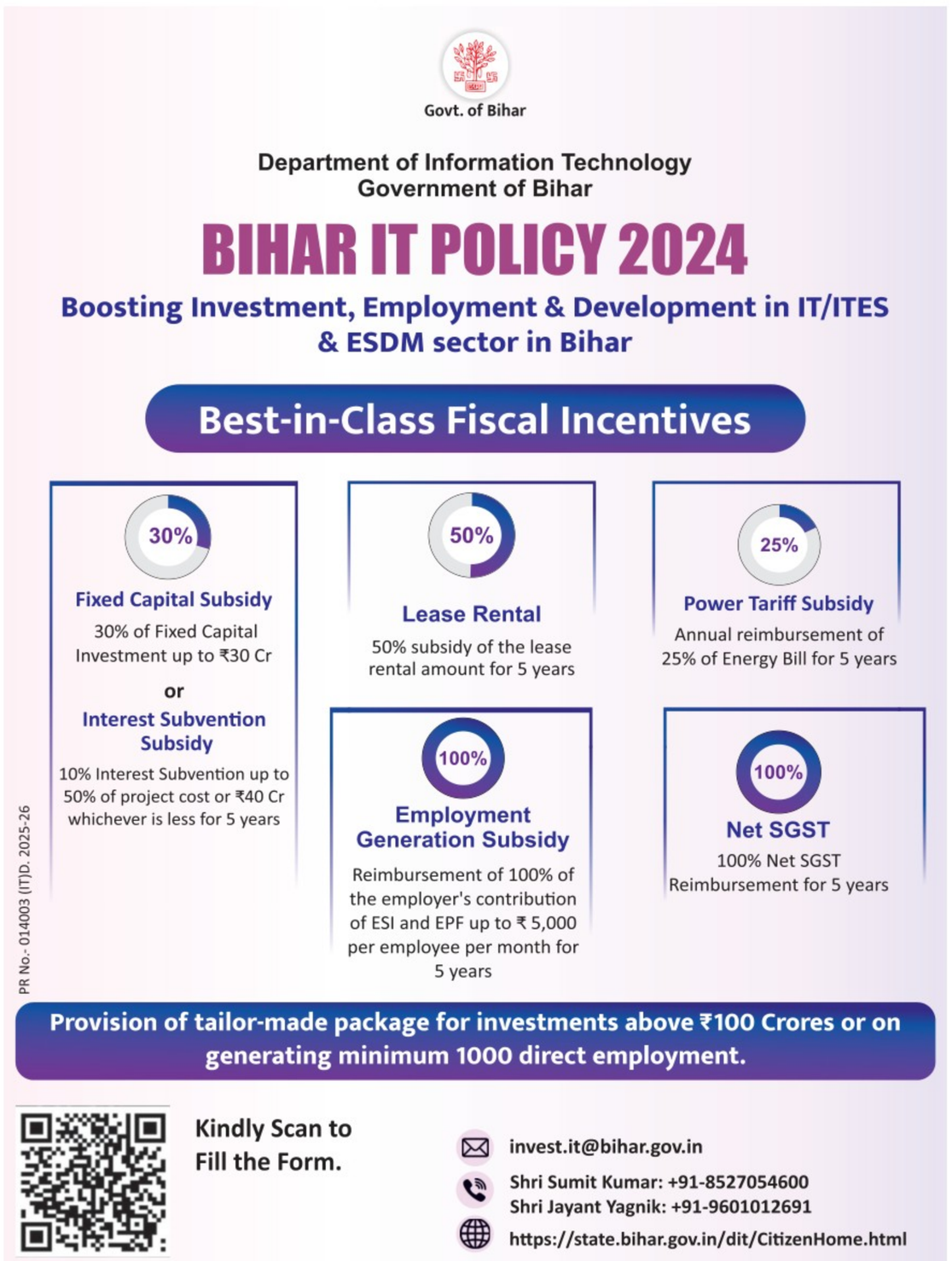
Based on a complaint filed by Kavitha M., revenue Inspector of Bommanahalli Circle, the accused, identified as Rama Reddy, have been booked under Karnataka Land Revenue Act and under Sections 192, 318, 324, 329, 336 and 340 of BNS.

Large-scale encroachment
The Revenue Department officials had conducted inspections at the Rayasandra lLake spread across 56.2 acres situated in Doddanagamangala, survey No. 54 at Beguru hobli, and allegedly found large-scale encroachment by Rama Reddy and others to construct layouts and houses in November last year.

The officials initiated an anti-encroachment drive to recover the land, but the accused opposed, demanding a survey of the land and assured to maintain status quo of the encroached property till then.

The officials conducted a survey and found that the land was encroached, and while a legal process was initiated to recover the land, the accused allegedly continued to build layouts and houses, defying the order.

The houses and layouts were being constructed using forged documents with plans for sale and to cheat the public and the State exchequer, Ms. Kavitha alleged in her complaint.



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NRI VISWABRAHMIN girl, born & broughtup in Dubai, LLB & LLM from England, presently working as Company Lawyer in Dubai (caste no bar), star Bharani, looking for boys UK/US educated working in Dubai, US or UK only. Contact: 00918943432057.

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
Hindu Naidu / Mudaliar Elite Family background 31/150 Psychologist Australian PR working @ Brisbane, looking suitable Australian settled Groom only. Caste No Bar
Ct: 96770 04283

DIVORCEE

KIND, ATTRACTIVE 40, 165cm, well–read (UK MSc), enterprising. Cultured S Indian family (IITian father). Seeks mature, compatible groom. Community no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365.

DOCTOR

CHRISTIAN NADAR Girl 27 Fair MBBS Father Own Clinic Suitable Doctor Chennai or Any District:7358 638363

HINDU DKV 30/156 Mutual Divorced (No Kids) MBBS, MD (Patho) Coimbatore based Working in Pvt Hospital 12L p.a seeks suitable Groom Doctor or any Professionals CT: 8778656704.

MD GENERAL Medicine, DM girl 32/156 seeks suitable groom. 9497168001, 9447493034

HINDU, 25 Years Doctor (PG) girl seeks Groom. Contact : 9677199925. CNB.

Hindu Nadar, 31, 165cms very Fair, Doctor, Cardiology Fellowship. Hailing from highly affluent family. Currently working as a Cardiologist. Instructor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School. Lives in US. Seeking an upstanding, well qualified, Professional, preferably a Doctor Groom working in USA.
Ct: +91 9791994449
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Chennai based, Senior Govt official, Well Educated, Well Settled Reputed Mudaliar Family, seeks **Post Graduate Fair & Good Looking Doctor Grooms** (Age below 32 - Height : 172 - 180 cms) for their only Daughter, Medico Post Graduation, First Year. Age 26 Years from Mudaliar Community. Sub caste : Thuluva Vellalar, Sengundar, Agamudiyar, Arcot Mudaliar. Pls send Horoscope, Photo and Bio data.
Ph : 98416 98995

TELUGU NAIDU Doctor Girl 91 Born MBBS, MD. Chennai. Seeking Suitable Doctor Groom. Contact: 80722 14843.

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

HINDU DEVENDRA Kula Vellalar girl 29yrs, 163cm, 65 Kg, B.Tech (IT), CIT, Coimbatore. Bsc Fasion tech, (MSc Psychology) Father–General Manager(Retd)IOCLMother–Home maker, Brother–B.E (Mech) preparing UPSC. Upper Middle class family. Seeks groom qualified, clean habits, family values–state/Central Govt employees, Caste no bar. Contact: 7550307487/ 9444401218

WANTED SUITABLE groom from good family background for a Bengali, Brahmin girl brought up in Kolkata, pretty, fair, 5', 35, B.Tech, M.S, Manager in a Nationalized Bank. State No Bar. Contact: 9830534899/8240948938.

MALAYALAM

VISWAKARMA GOLDSMITH girl, 35/155, Visakham, M.Phil seeks alliance from parents of professionals. 9188198390.

THE HINDU
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GROOM WANTED - NRE NAIR GIRL, 51, MSc, PHD, Never married, US Citizen, Chicago, Caste No Bar, Malayalam Tamil US Residency only.Contact : 9895824803

✔ **HINDU** /SAIVA Pillai /27 /MS/ (IT) / Studied and working @ Melbourne / Data Analyst / Looking suitable Australia settled Bridegroom /WhatsApp: 9790110377/ saiaustralia31@gmail.com.

TAMIL

CHENNAI BASED CSI Christian Nadar, Only daughter (29), MBBS, Pursuing MD General Medicine, Well–educated family seeks suitable groom. 9498336141

CHRISTIAN RC, Age 29,MDS, Doctor, 10L CT 8138900316

CHRISTIAN CATHOLIC ,31, MD , USA , 1 Crore, CT 7356483111

CHRISTIAN CATHOLIC, 29, MS, Doctor, 50L, CT 8138900312

RC CHRISTIAN Nadar Unmarried Fair Bride, 35/170, M.E., Software Engr. seeks BC/FC unmarried groom. Ct. 9886888775

PG DOCTOR, Christian, 30, AD, PR, Sambavar, Reputed Hospital, Salary 1450000/ pa seeks suitable Doctors / Class I Officer Grooms. 9442522322

CHRISTIAN, RC, 30 MDS, Doctor, 10 Lakhs CT 8138900316

CHRISTIAN COSMOPOLITAN 30 yr MS(US) , Architect beautiful v fair girl working in Chennai looking for a handsome well settled groom from similar background. Call 9884067923 / 9884012383

TAMIL MUSLIM Auditor family Bride 23Yrs BHMS– Homoeopathy Doctor. Wanted Chennai Settled Professional Groom. Whatapp: 7845136035

✔ **MUSLIM SLIM girl 38 yrs, look for qualified, employed, never married Tamil Muslim Groom. 9444235779**

CHRISTIAN, NADAR, 26, MBBS, Doctor, 7 lakhs. Contact 8138900316

CHRISTIAN, RC, 35, BSc, Government, 20 lakhs. Ct 8138900487

CATHOLIC VELLALAR 32 /171, MBBS, MPH Step 1 passed in student visa, USA Seeks groom from USA. 9150153743

CHRISTIAN VELLALAR bride, BE, 26 yrs, seeks groom in Chennai. Similar profiles contact 6385408109

LOOKING FOR Christian Bridegroom for the girl working in USA aged 26. End time message.8939250457

HASTHAM 37 Fair MCA chennai seeks Mudaliar/Pillai professionaly Qulfd working Groom 8220757159/ 9444136336

HINDU SCAD 38yrs, Working in TCS Chennai as Senior Software Engineer 1.40Lakh/pm seeks qualified employed Groom. Ct: 9952147216 / 8838034943

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA 23yrs ,168cm legally adopted MBA girl Chennai, professional parents looking for Chennai based upper middle class boy. whatsapp 9444469327

VANNIA KULA Kshatriya Girl, 32years, 155cm, MDS(Dentist), working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai. Star Moolam 4padam, Dhanusu Rasi. Contact: 9382167197 / 9962781009

VISWAKARMA, 25YRS, B.Tech, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

CASTE NO Bar 31yrs, B.Tech, Divorce, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:9962791888

HINDU NADAR, divorced, BE, Business, 15L CT 8137003549

HINDU MUDHALIYAR, Age 30, MBA, Consultant, 10L, CT 8138901281

HINDU REDDY Fair, Slim PG Specialist Doctor 34/165 cms in Private Practice from Elite Family. Seeks Suitable Never Married Groom From Elite Family CNB CT:8925640111

RC NADAR, 27yrs, BE, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9380791999/ 9841329471

IYER GIRL 41 yrs, Issueless Divorcee, (G)Koundanya. Seeks Qualified, Well Employed, Compatible Groom. Community Iyer, Saiva Pillai / Mudaliyar(Veg). Prefered Location Chennai Only. Ct 9940332928

CHENNAI–BASED HINDU Bride, 33 yrs, 153 cm, Mudaliyar, MBA, Working in US, Divorced (Having 4 Yrs Kid). Open to Divorced/Widowed Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact: 8220765305

SC, AD, 25, MBA, Star –Rohini, Pvt. IT Job, Wanted Suitable Groom Chennai Only . Ct: 94445 73205

GROOM WANTED (age 27 to 29) to Tamil NRI bride Age 26 Monthly salary 4 Lakhs. Mobile+917395947749.

TAMIL

HINDU MUDALIAR 27/158 Sathayam,BE Empl Seeks Groom,Same Community Employed in MNC/Gvt/Bank/NRI 9884245637

TAMIL VISWAKARMA 35/158 Divorced (No issues) Manager MNC, Chennai 25L/pa seeks qualified well employed progressive thinking groom from TN/ Karnataka. Caste No bar. 9841055850

VANNIER 27/168CM MBBS MPH doing MRCS UK seeks PG Doctor Vannier in UK.Geetham 9884858014

MUDALIAR (CNB) 24/V.Fair, B.E, MS (UK), Running own Education Institution, Chennai, Rich Family, Seeks Groom– Business / Doctor – 8925019776

MUDALIAR (CNB) 25/V.Fair, MBBS, MD doing Final year, Chennai, only daughter, well settled family – seeks groom Doctor/ Eng – 7358510790

ADIDRAVIDAR AGE 25 BE Pvt Wipro Sal:40000 / well settled wants suitable groom. 8122289871 / 9444139323

MUDALIYAR DOCTOR 27/175 MD Paediatric seeks Doctor, Professional, Business suitable Grooms 9791053568

THIRUNELVELI SAIVA Pillai girl, 25, BE(CSc) wkg in MNC as Software Engineer. Parents invite proposals from respectable, strict vegetarian families of same caste. Looking for a well educated B.E/B.Tech grooms wkg in same profession and settled in bangalore. Pl Share Horoscope. sk_pillai@outlook.com 6364789344

HINDU SC/AD, 39/163cm fair, BTech (CSE), SWP, Moolam Dhansu, never married, Chennai seeks proffesionally qualified never married groom below 42yrs from India / abroad. Caste No Bar. Contact: 87545 66571

HINDU, MUDHALIYAR, 30 Private 10 Lakhs. CT 8138900412

HINDU, CHETTIAR, 30, MD, Doctor 30 lakhs. CT 8138901281

HINDU, 27, Intercaste, BE, Govt job,15 lakhs. CT 9048444858

DKV 33YRS Fair B.Tech MBA IIT Working MNC 24 Lac PA Chennai Seeking Suitable Match CNB Ph: 9940507235

Hindu -Tamil, Viswakarma, 28, BE, MS(UK) with work visa, Seeks Bridegroom in UK. Contact: 73055-28980.

MUDALIAR 25, M Tech, 162cm Good Looking well Settled Family Seeks Groom CNB Ct.8778514465 / 7200866346

HINDU, 26, Nadar, CMA, UK, Business, 3 crores. Ct 8138900412

HINDU, 23, Gounder, B.Arch, Business, 10 crores. Ct 8138901281

DESIGN ENGINEER Hindu Girl B E (Mech) M S (Adv Manufacturing) 28 157 fair 4 years experience at Singapore and Germany, working in a MNC Bengaluru seeks Professional Groom 9363631558

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TAMIL

MUDALIAR 24/160 Beautiful, MBBS, Reputed Hospital, 660000.PA.Well Settled, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

CASTE NO Bar, 27yrs, MBBS, MS, Well Educated Family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 29yrs, BE, MBA, 2.5lakhs pm, Elite business family. Ct: 9380791999 / 9841329471

HINDU NADAR. B.Tech, MBA, 26/166, Good Looking, Smart Entrepreneur Seeks Professionally Qualified Groom based in Mumbai/Chennai. 8424058261

HINDU ADI–DRAVIDAR MS/Doctor Girl 28Yrs Seeks Doctor with PG Degree Caste NoBar.Parents Doctor 9444651852

GROOM WANTED for Vathima Brahmin Girl 33, BSc+MBA Fair Energetic, Working in B'lore, Novo Nordisk a Good Salary Sub–Sect No Bar. Age Difference 0–4yrs Ct:9884222614/ 9677019636

✔ **Hindu Intercaste** (Saivapillai/ Brahmin) 28/185 cm/ MBA working in MNC Bengaluru seeks suitable Professional well settled Groom from respectable Family Contact 9841535955

VANNIYAR, BDS, 32, Revathi, Employed, Middle class family, Groom from same Community needed. 98409 61251

HINDU AD, 39yrs/167cm, MA, M.Phil, B.ED, Ph.D Working at PVT college, Divorcee, Decent fmly, seeks Educated Employed groom CNB.9941335774

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The Boy should be tall, from big affluent family, well educated. Born before 1993
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Educated, affluent business family seeks educated, handsome groom with high moral values and clean habits from well-settled families with similar background for their daughter (26 yrs/167 cm / Magaram Raasi), Master degree in UK. Rahu Ketu dosham present.
Contact :
98439-66666

Tamil Mudaliar, 30 years, M.S.from USA, Working in an US company in Qatar as an Environmental Engineer, Looking for a well educated groom (Cosmopolitan).
CONTACT:
Mobile: 00966500268681
Whatsapp: 0097455626509

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Affluent Hindu family from Trivandrum, well-established in healthcare, hospitality & education sectors, for over 5 decades, invite alliance for their 33-year-old only son, an Orthopedic Surgeon. He is legally separated (no children).
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krishtvm71@gmail.com

COSMOPOLITAN

1992 BORN Mudaliar / Pillai Well Qualified & Settled Short Lived & Unconsummated Divorcee .Seeks Bride from Elite Family 1st or 2nd Marriage. Whatapp–9442618940

INDEPENDENT, DIVORCED, Single, Healthy, Retired Pensioner, 62yrs, Educated Muslim, needs Independent, Healthy, Educated Bride age 50+ No Bars & No Mediations 8125651881

DIVORCEE

GROOM, 43, Divorced (No Kids) Engineer, MNC Chennai. Seeking well–Educated, Working Partner (No Kids) from Yadav/ Pillai/ Mudaliyar Families. Contact: 98410 47279

DIVORCEE, DOCTOR DM, 41, Iyer Principal Consultant reputed Delhi Hospital, seeks well placed professional South Indian Brahmin Bride Cont: 9940884900/ Email: apsusha@gmail.com

IYER TAMIL Divorcee Boy 50yrs SWE MNC Chennai Educated Respectable Family High Salary seeks minimum graduate girl without issues. Simple marriage no demands. Caste No Bar. 9841942915.

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MUDALIYAR, 29, 183 cms, MS in Eng. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a suitable match from similar community from India. Contact: 6366448343

YADAV, 33, 165 cms, BE, Businessman. Lives in Coimbatore. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from any caste. Contact: 6366448343

REDDY, 29, 173 cms, MBA & MS. Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

ADI DRAVIDA, 29, 168 cms, MBA, IIM, Entrepreneur. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

NADAR, 27, 168 cms, M.Sc. Lives in Coimbatore. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

INTERCASTE, 25, 163 cms, MBBS, Completed MRCP(UK) Part-2. Family is affluent and lives in Chennai. Looking for a like minded match from any caste. Contact: 6366448343

NAIDU, 27, 158 cms, Pursuing Masters in Medicine. Lives in Kallakuruchi. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

YADAV, 32, 160 cms, Pursuing Masters in Medicine. Lives in Chennai. Business class family and lives in UAE. Looking for a like minded match from similar community, preferably Doctors. Contact: 6366448344

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TAMIL

GROOM WANTED
REDDIYAR, 29, 165 cms, MS from USA. Lives in Chennai. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible and well-educated groom from a business family or professional background, preferably studied abroad and settled in India.
Contact: 98400 37536
Email: hsudeesh@gmail.com

TELUGU

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
Naidu, Swathy / Thulam 31/173 well-educated & Cultured, MS, employed in a reputed MNC, USA (H1B Visa). seeks suitable groom from a good family background.
indiraramesh92@gmail.com
rameshcgp@yahoo.com

RICH KAMMA Naidu, 25yrs, B.Tech, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Ct: 6385293227

WANTED TELUGU groom for our daughter from reputed corporate family. Age 33 – 34. WA 9894579061. No reps.

NAIDU, 31YRS, BE, MS (UC BERKELEY) Well Educated Elite business family Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:6385293227

COSMOPOLITAN

BRIDE WANTED Alliance invited from Senior IAS Officer (R) for his Son 31/178cm, MBA Finance, Premier B School. Oil PSU, Currently Posted in Mumbai, likely to move to Bangalore. Maharashtrian/ Tamil Parents, Settled in Chennai. Expecting CA/ CS, MBA/ Doctor/ Lawyer. Caste / language No Bar. Whatsapp: 7305236868

DOCTOR

SUNNI URDU Doctor Parents seek a bride from a religious educated family, preferably a medical professional, for their doctor son, fair 26/178cm, pursuing MD postgraduation. Email– absash25@gmail.com

Affluent Christian family, Looking suitable match for their Son 1987 born / 180 / MBBS, MS. Surgeon. Early marriage invitation- 7200200946

TAMIL

GROOM WANTED
REDDIYAR, 29, 165 cms, MS from USA. Lives in Chennai. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible and well-educated groom from a business family or professional background, preferably studied abroad and settled in India.
Contact: 98400 37536
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TELUGU

RICH NAIDU, 26yrs, M.com, CA, Well Educated Family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

KAMMA NAIDU, 26yrs, MBBS, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

RICH NAIDU, 30yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Industrial background in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Cont: 6385293227

TELUGU YADAVA HOMELY LOOKING BRIDE
aged 25, cosmetologist, wheatish 155 cms height, seeks graduate or PG business professional well settled bridegroom aged below 30 with decent family background & prefers to stay in Chennai.
Call: Ravindran
+91 91767 27247

Balija Naidu 27yrs/172cm, M.Sc (C.S) Visakam 3rd Padam, Thulam Rasi, Fair, Seeks Professionaly Qualified groom.Ct: 9445229864/ 044-42875069

44 Yrs /165cm/ SWE/ Bengaluru. OC/ Caste no bar. seeks Engineer/Doctor/ Professional Groom. Ct: 9182734077

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM girl, 94born ,164cm , B.Tech ,never married,working in PSU bank Mumbai.U.P.based family well settled in Rajasthan. Father retired Addl.Director. #9461179587

SEEKING PROFESSIONALLY qualified Sunni Muslim boy for my daughter. She is a doctor (age 28 and 166 cm) , now doing MD and settled in Sydney, Australia. Please send biodata first on +61402612128

FINANCE / BANKING

32 YEARS. Manager in a PSB. Atheist. Looking for financially independent, intellectually inclined Tamil/ Malayali woman as life partner. Ctct: 9789227517

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

KANNADA

SMART, HANDSOME 33, 170cm, AUS–educated consultant. Cultured S Indian family. Seeks compatible bride. Caste no bar. Call or WA 9345634365.

MALAYALAM

PROPOSAL ARE invited from parents of educated Christian girls for a boy 31/BTech/Executive in the Government sector in Middle East. Evangelical, Marthoma, Orthodox or CSI denominations preferred. Call 8606508759/7025222989

NAIR POORAM 27 B.Com, Kollam Well Settled Owns Businesses, seek same/ allied caste girl. Ct: 9381045556.

NRI

NAIDU 30/180CM, Pooratathi, BTech, MS, Working as Research Engineer in Sweden. Call Parent 9566682220

SAURASTRA

SAURASTRA 39 1st Marraige CNB Hastam Kanni MBA Finance Chennai 1.27L Pm, Seeks Suitable Bride. 9444735240

TAMIL

TAMIL CATHOLIC boy 29 yrs naturalised citizen of USA, Bachelors in Visual Communication, very good in sports with mild autism seeks devout catholic girl. Contact 919786640755.

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 37yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 28yrs/182cm, M.Tech, working at Bangalore, 22 Lacs p.a seeks Bangalore employed Bride from same community. 9842123428

43YRS RC Christian with 5yr daughter, MBA, IT Job @ CBE Seek widow or Divorcee Bride without Child from Coimbatore/Near by City. 9894030321.

CHRISTIAN DOCTOR, 39/169, M.D Paediatric, Neonatologist, profession in Trivandrum, Fair, Handsome, Divorce - No Kids. Seeks fair, Doctor/Non Medico Bride, age 30 to 35, preferably South India, Caste no bar. Contact: 86100 20066, 94433 26119

TAMIL MUSLIM 27/177 MD. Seeks prof qualified bride Ct : 82200 42091 mdullahsafi@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN, NADAR, 33, BE, Engineer, 20 lakhs. CT 8138900316

CHRISTIAN, PENTECOST, 27, BE, Private, Australia, 2 crores. Contact 7356483111

CSI NADAR, 12.08.95, Fair, Slim, 167cm, B.Tech, Affluent, Family Business, Manufacturing Factory In Nagercoil. Seeks Fair, Slim Good-Looking Bride From Upper Middle Class Family, Same Caste, Contact: 94426 16881

TAMIL MUSLIM 32/180cm,BE, MBA, SWE, MNC, seeks Employed Bride. Ct: 9444008160

BAVENRO M.PHARM 27/M, 6ft, Hindu, Nadar Seeks alliance from Pharmaceutical Bus Background NoBrk 9952023992

BE IIT 188 cm Height Mudaliar born Nov 91 MNC, in Hyderabad Sal 90 lacs seeks Bride from same or Allied Castes Tamil, Telugu. Ct: 7382620365

HINDU NADAR 28yrs B.Tech 3lakhs/pm, Elite Business family, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:9380791999/ 9841329471

MUDALIYAR, UTHIRAM, 30/172, B.Tech MBA, 65L PA, working in Delhi, Chennai Native, Non–Veg CNB. 8939130284

39, 10TH Nadar Gramani, Transport Work Seeks bride Brokers Excuse. Ct: 9962154905 / 7299391299

MUDALIAR 26/180, Own Business Seeks Suitable High Profile Bride Geetham 9884858014

KARUNEEGAR REMARRIAGE 39/170 BE, Chicago USA Seeks Suitable Bride CNB. Geetham 9884858014

MUDALIAR 33/172 BE, California USA Seeks Suitable Bride CNB. Geetham 9884858014

HINDU, REDDY, Age 26, MBA, IT Professional,15L, CT 8137003548

HINDU, PILLAI, 27, BE, Consultant, 20L, CT 8138009235

HINDU, UDAYAR, Age 29, Architect, 1 crore, CT 8138901294

TAMIL

AGAMUDAIYAR, UTHIRAM/KANNI 35/180, BE, HRM, Job at Canada, Canadian Citizen, Seeks BE,Nursing, any degree bride.CNB. Ct:9442993042

AGAMUDAIYAR UTHIRADAM 34/180 B.Tech, TCS, Hyderabad, 2Lpm, seeks Equally Qualified bride, Caste No Bar. Contact: 8220984182

HINDU, ENGINEER, widower, senguntha mudhaliyar, 56/155, financially secure, non–vegetarian, non–smoker, seeks homely woman, 40–50, for re–marriage, contact 9514551155, Ravibalasubra@gmail.com with biodata, photo

GROOM:M.VIJAYAKANTH S/O Mahendravarman 9283258852:Vanniyar 33 yrs Fair, Slim, BE. Bride: Age diff min 4yrs.

HINDU, NADAR, MS, Doctor 10 lakhs. CT 7356483111

HINDU TAMIL Nadar 45/181 B.E., Carleton University IISC 99943-51766, vimalkrishna@tamilfilmmakerspro.com

HINDU, NAIDU, 25, M.Sc, Business 10Lakhs. CT 8138009144

HINDU, UDAYAR, 29, B.Arch, Business, 1 crore. CT 8138900312

DKV 36YRS B.Tech Manager working in PSU Bank 18Lac PA Chennai Seeking Suitable Bride. Call: 9940507235

MUDALIAR/YADAV 33, BE , MBA. Working as Associate manager HR with HCL technologies seeks educated girl. Caste no bar.9884212125 / 7708209879

GAVARA NAIDU Affluent family Chennai 29/165 ME Design Engineer in MNC and Own Business, Rental income also, Star Thiruvonam Rasi Magaram, CNB. Call: 9841097110

WELL–EDUCATED ARCOT Mudaliar, Aged 36, Residing in US West Coast. Working as Sr Manager in a Tech firm with MBA & MSC from reputed Ivy League & Singapore universities.Seeking well–educated & driven bride with shared values , preferably based in US. Call (or) Whatsapp: +65 90610927

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 28yrs 177cm, B.Tech, 2lakhs pm, Elite business family K.A.Ramannadar 9380791999

RICH MUDALIYAR, 27yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 9962791888

HINDU SC AD Magam 28/ 174 B.Tech, MBA Pvt Sector from wealthy family seeks good looking girl. 9940247835

WANTED BRIDE for Tall Fair Handsome Groom,28/183cm, BE(ECE) from respectable Sozhiya Vellala Pillai/ Thuluva Vellala Mudaliar Family Seeks a Suitable Bride Age 21 to 25 yrs from Similar Community. Birth Star Mirugashesam 4th Padam Horoscope Matching Essential Call: 99629 23020/WhatsApp

HINDU, NAIDU, separated, 30, USA, Private, 50 lakhs. Contact 8138900139

HINDU, MUDHALIYAR, 28, MD, Doctor, 25lakhs. Contact 8138900312

HINDU, CHETTIYAR, 26, MBA, 25 lakhs, Private. Contact 8137003550

HINDU–34YRS/BE/SWE/172CMS/25LP/SC/ AYILLAM. SETTLED in Bangalore, financially stable. Looking for suitable match. Con:9845401461.

39, 181, B.E., IT professional in Chennai. Father Hindu, Mother Catholic. Both retired Govt Employees. He has no religious beliefs. Caste no bar. Contact 9600174846

PILLAI 38/BE, Swathi, CTO US Company, Well Settled N.V. Seeks Bride CNB. Coimbatore 9843252888

NADAR DIVORCEE, 37 yrs, no Kids, M.E., Ph.D., Proff. Engg. College, Chennai 1 Lakh pm seeks suitable Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9443269548

HINDU MUDALIAR 34/165 M.Tech Class 4 Marine Engr, seeks bride from any caste & good family. Ct:9791507303

HINDU NADAR Age – 29, BE, ECE, Cuddalore Native, MNC Job – Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride. No Brokers Ph : 7358180408 / 9442912405

TAMIL BRAHMIN Intercaste 29, 176cm BE working in MNC Bengaluru as AI Specialist Earning 27 LPA Seeks Educated Employed Girl from Respectable Family Caste No Bar 9952914077

MBBS DR, Hindu, Pillai, BC, 48, Divorced, Well Settled, Caste/Age no bar, seeks Good Bride. Ct 9443588820

CASTE NO Bar, 28yrs, B.Tech, Elite industrial background in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Cont:6385293227

TAMIL

HINDU SC AD Poosam Kadagam Rasi 33/168/DICE/BE(Pursuing)NLCI LTD/3.6L per Annum seeks suitable bride Contact: 9443084928

TAMIL BRAHMIN Ph.D, fair, athletic & fit US Citizen, Executive, 60/180 widowed after great marriage, 2 sons (working & living independently) seeks Hindu, Brahmin life partner preferably US/ Canadian citizen/ having US Visa, 50–60yrs. Mail profile & photo to: anoname2021@gmail.com

BRAHMIN IYER Boy,31, Magam, B.Tech, Reputed IT Co., Chennai, Seeks Brahmin Graduate Girl. Ct: 9940352807

IYENGAR VADHULA Krithigai1 Btec M.S H1B 35 Proptied sks California based fair Girl Any Brahmin 9884722785

IYER KASYAB Barani 39/180 Mutual Divorcee Double Masters,Ph.D Thesis (Germany) Employed Germany Seeks Qualified Unmarried Bride Willing Relocate Germany 9444551216/ 04426861097

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom
Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only
CT: 93842 76066

BRIDE WANTED
(Caste No Bar)
Neelankarai ECR CHENNAI Handsome Fair 175cms / 31 yrs. Mithunam / Thiruvathirai Business professional Rich/Affluent groom seeks good looking Homely fair Bride from Vanniyar/Pillai/ Mudaliyar/Gounder.
9384488269
(Preferably within Tamil Nadu)

BRIDE WANTED
MS (CSE), 30/180cm, fair, good-looking groom from affluent & well-educated Hindu Agamudayar family.
Successful IT professional leading a popular global tech firm based in Chennai. Well-settled with high income and a strong reputation.
Looking for a well-educated, good-looking, family-oriented bride from a Tamil family.
Open to equal communities with similar values and background.
Ph: +91 78458 21205

TELUGU

HINDU GAVARA Naidu, age 40 / Ht. 170 cm working in 5 star hotel, Sous chef (abroad) Salary 1 lakh / month. Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 9003194290.

DIVORCED 49/ 167CM No Issue, B.E, Pvt Job, Only Son,10–Acre Agri Land, Caste No Bar. Call: 9790271078

BALIJA NAIDU 34/170 Moolam Dhanusu Fair Slim MS Working US Boston H1B Seeks Fair Bride India/Abroad. Subsect No Bar. 9841209119/ 9444222466.

BALIJA NAIDU 32yrs Rohini Rishabam Fair Business (Surgical Manufacturer & Distributors) Seeks Any Telugu Caste Bride. 9790963402.

Telugu Boy 1987, Holding Networth of 1000 Cr, Businessman. Is looking suitable match (CNB) (8122890016).

AGE 45 MCA Sadhayam,Kumbha rasi Fair Software Engineer seeks suitable Bride, caste no bar. PH: 9894670293

NAIDU 29/185, Handsome, BE, MS, D Analyst, Apple,USA,200000.$.PA, Affluent Family. 9043991629, 9043987029

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM 39/178 cm M.Tech (Automotive Consultant in MNC), Legally divorced seeks educated religious bride for second marriage. Divorcee or widow preferred without kids from Chennai or other states. Contact: 7871259345

Alliance invited from Muslim Family 1993 Born/ 178/ MBBS/ MS/ Doctor/ Bangalore Resident/ Looking Suitable match for son. Call (9164400029)

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Australia All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. 8248757840

Veerashaiva-Lingayats again caught in a fix over nomenclature

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

Ahead of the socio-educational survey beginning on September 22, members of the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community are again caught in a fix over the nomenclature of their community.

There is confusion with contradictory appeals by representatives of caste organisations and seers on how to name their community and caste.

Decades-old dilemma

In the last few decades, the community has faced such a dilemma every time a census is undertaken, and after the mega movement for the independent religion status for Lingayatism in 2017, the issue seems to have become even more complex.

The State government's recommendation on granting religious minority status to 'Lingayat and Veerashaiva Lingayat (who believe in Basava Tatva)' became the talking point of the 2018 Assembly elections with the BJP accusing the Congress of trying to divide the community. This narrative has continued even today.

Jagatika Lingayat Mahasabha (JLM), an offshoot of the Lingayat movement, projects 'Lingayat' as an independent religion. The representative body of Veerashaiva Lingayats, the Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha, which added Lingayat to its name post the Lingayat movement, is in agreement with JLM on this issue, but differs over the nomenclature.

National general secretary of the mahasabha and Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre recently requested the community members to mention their religion in the 'Others' column and identify themselves as 'Veerashaiva' or 'Lingayat' or 'Veerashaiva Lingayat' under the caste column subsequently, mentioning their sub-caste. However JLM wants only Lingayat to be mentioned after 'Others'.

Meanwhile in the Basava Samskruti Abhiyana, a Statewide campaign to mark the first anniversary of declaration of 12th century social reformer Basavanna as "cultural icon", various seers are requesting community members to identify themselves as 'Lingayats', a development which has not gone down well with various Veerashaiva Lingayat seers now being led by Dingaleshwar Swami of Fakkireshwar Mutt of Shirahatti.

The 'Panchacharyas' of the Veerashaiva community have now sided with Dingaleshwar Swami who is planning Veerashaiva Lingayat Ekata Samavesh in Hubballi on September 19.

Loss of reservation?

Meanwhile, there is another confusion as some are claiming that not mentioning 'Hindu' in the religion column would lead to loss of reservation benefits. However, rubbishing the claim, JLM has appealed to the community to not to be misled by such rumours. But the confusion still remains, as right wing groups are covertly spreading the rumour, claim some sources.

Three among 10 dead were bright students of engineering college

One of them, Mithun, had turned 21 that day. He and his friends had cut a cake before joining the Ganesha procession

HASSAN TRAGEDY

Sathish G.T.
MOSALE HOSAHALLI (HASSAN)

Praveen Kumar K.

Mithun G.V.

Suresh M.R.

Three students of the government engineering college at Mosale Hosahalli in Hassan taluk were among the 10 people who died in the accident during a Ganesha procession at the village on Friday.

Mithun G.V., Suresh M.R., and Praveen Kumar K., all in the final year of BE, had joined the Ganesha procession on NH 373, soon after having dinner at the government hostel at the village.

Mithun, a native of Gavi Rangapura in Hosadurga of Chitradurga district, had turned 21 on the same day. He and his friends celebrated the occasion by cutting a cake before joining the procession. His father is an accountant in a temple.

"All three were bright, meritorious students, who had big ambitions in their lives. The college staff are yet to come to terms with the tragedy," said T. Rangaswamy, principal of the college.

The college, set up in 2019, has a strength of over 1,050, the highest among government engineering colleges in the State.

"We have students from different parts of the State. A majority of them stay in hostels. While girls stay in the hostel on the campus, boys are admitted to government hostels in Mosale Hosahalli and Hassan. These boys joined the procession close to their hostel," said the principal.

The government engineering college at Mosale Hosahalli declared a holiday on Saturday after three of its students died in the accident during a Ganesha procession on Friday. SATHISH G.T.

Praveen, who was in the computer science stream, was from a poor family in Ballari. His father passed away, and his mother, who works at a clinic, is the breadwinner. "I still remember the day when he was admitted to the college. His mother accompanied him. She had high hopes for her son. The mother was hardly left with money to return home. We, the staff, helped him and took care of him as our family member," said Mr. Rangaswamy. Praveen is survived by his mother and a sister.

Suresh, also a student of computer science, was from an agricultural family at Manenahalli in Chikkamagaluru.

"Because of his interest in studies and skills in organising events, he was known as Mr. Perfect in our department. We had a seminar in our department on Friday, and all of them were with me until the evening," recalled Raghu M.E., Head of the Department of Computer Science. Suresh is survived by his parents and two brothers.

Kabaddi match

"They would have completed their course in a couple of months and secured excellent placements, given their performance in exams. Unfortunately, their journey has been cut short," said Mr. Rangaswamy, who declared a holiday for the college on Saturday.

Besides these three, many students of the college suffered injuries. Two workers of the college also suffered injuries. Three among them require surgeries as they suffered bone fractures in the incident.

"A few more students from the hostel had delayed joining the procession as they were watching a kabaddi match of the Pro-Kabaddi League in which Bengaluru Bulls were playing on the day. They had plans to join the procession after the match was over," said Mr. Raghu.

Heart-rending tragedy: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the deaths of several people during a Ganesha immersion in Hassan, and said it was a heart-rending tragedy.

Mr. Modi said on X, "The mishap in Hassan, Karnataka, is heart-rending. In this tragic hour, my thoughts are with the bereaved families. I hope those who have been injured recover at the earliest."

He announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to the next of kin of each of the deceased. The injured would be given ₹50,000 each, he added.

HDD urges Siddaramaiah to enhance compensation

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda has urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to increase the compensation for families of the deceased in the Hassan accident to ₹10 lakh. The State government has announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh.

Mr. Deve Gowda spoke to the media after visiting the HIMS in Hassan, where the injured are undergoing treatment. The former Prime Minister stated that a majority of the dead and injured were youth and earning members of their families.

"I appeal to the Chief Minister to increase the relief to families of the deceased to ₹10 lakh," he stated.

JD(S) to give relief

Further, he said that the JD (S) would give a compensation of ₹1 lakh each to the families of the deceased and ₹25,000 to the seriously injured.

Meanwhile, former Minister H.D. Revanna has said the incident could have been avoided if the police had taken enough care. He maintained that the police should have slowed down traffic by placing barricades about 500 m on either side of the place where the procession was being held.

The incident occurred on NH 373, and of the four lanes, the procession was restricted to two lanes. "The vehicle hit the crowd after crossing over the divider. If there was no divider, there could have been more deaths," he said.

Four-point resolution adopted to increase people's trust in democratic institutions

Om Birla, Lok Sabha Speaker, Basavaraj Horatti, Chairman of Karnataka Legislative Council, and U.T. Khader, Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly, at a press conference in Bengaluru on Saturday. ALLEN EGENUSE J

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 11th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), India region conference, which concluded here on Saturday, adopted a four-point resolution to increase people's trust in democratic institutions.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla told the media that presiding officers of 26 States participated in the three-day conference.

The resolutions passed by the CPA are aimed at increasing people's trust in democratic institutions, eliminating deadlock and disruptions in both Houses of Parliament and State legislatures to ensure more time in discussing issues of public welfare, he said.

Appeal to MPs, MLAs

On frequent disruptions in Parliament and legislatures, he appealed to MPs and MLAs to raise issues of political interest outside the House.

Mr. Birla said with the support of Parliament, the research and reference branches of the State legislatures would be strengthened.

A comprehensive database would be prepared on all important issues in legislatures to ensure better quality of debate and discussions in legislative institutions.

He said digital technology would be adopted in legislatures so that the proceedings of the democratic institutions would be properly communicated to the people and the efficiency of legislative bodies would be improved.

Mr. Birla acknowledged the fact that a large proportion of the country's population is youth and women, and said legislatures should make necessary efforts to ensure their greater participation in democratic institutions.

Mr. Birla said a decision was taken for better drafting of Bills and laws so that the public would understand them better. Steps would be taken to use simple language so that common people would understand laws, he added.

Special postal cover released

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On World Sepsis Day, Aionios Pharma, in association with the General Post Office, Bengaluru, launched a special postal cover to raise awareness on sepsis – a life-threatening medical emergency where the body's response to infection can cause organ failure and death if not treated promptly.

The special postal cover was unveiled by C.N. Manjunath, MP and former director of Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research. Speaking at the event, experts emphasised that millions of lives are lost worldwide each year owing to a delayed diagnosis of sepsis, said a release.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

A. Suryanarayana Gupta
28/12/1928 - 12/09/2025

With profound grief, we inform that our beloved father passed away on 12th September, 2025.

Fondly remembered by:
A.Satish, A.Ramesh, Suma Ramesh & families

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
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No.1994 Date 01.09.2025

NIT No. 31/2025-26
Notice Inviting Bid
NIB No. PWD2526A3055

Bids for **Budget Announcement Year 2025-26 Road Works in Kota District PWD Zone Kota** are invited Road work from interested bidders **upto 6.00 pm, 29.09.2025**. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the Rajasthan and **http://pwd.'rajasthan.gov.in** website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 2296.59 lacs. (5 PKg.)**
UBN No. 1. PWD2526WSOB11454, 2. PWD2526WSOB11455, 3. PWD2526WSOB11456, 4. PWD2526WSOB11457, 5. PWD 2526WLOB11458

Addl. Chief Engineer PWD Zone Kota
DIPR/C/13066/2025

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Lenin Center, Governerpet, Vijayawada - 520002 (A.P.)
NIT No. 84/MAU61-ADMN0IS(APSW)/24/2025-IS, Dated: 12-09-2025
E ProcurementTender Notice

Name of Work: APCRDA - RFP for "Selection of Solution Provider to Configure, Customize, Integrate, Implement and Maintain Integrated Facility Management System (IFMS) along with BMS Integration & IoT Devices Installation @ APCRDA Project Office and AP High Court"

The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **15.09.2025 to 01.10.2025 up to 14.00 Hrs.** Due date for submission of **Bid is 01.10.2025up to 15.00 Hrs,** Technical bid opening **01.10.2025@16.00Hrs.** For further details Please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in and www.crda.ap.gov.in.**

Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HUBBALLI
No. KMCRI/SUP-6/159/2025-26 **Dated 12-09-2025**
ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್)

2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಆರ್.ಐಯ್ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಶುಶ್ರೂಷಕರ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಈ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಈ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಮತ್ತು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು),
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

KARNATAKA SENGUNDHAR SANGHA
Registration No.: 411/84-85
#41, 1st Main Road, Ramachandrapura, Bangalore – 560021
Phone: 080-23134666 | Mobile: 7411708501

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Sengundhar community is spread across Karnataka. We are contributing both to our community's progress as well as the development of the state. At present, our community is classified under the IIA (2A) category, with 15% reservation in education and employment.
However, the caste census report submitted by the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission has had a severe impact on our weaver community. The figures mentioned in the report have caused significant concern. Therefore, through the Weavers' Communities Federation, we have urged the government to review and reassess these figures.
To address this situation and bring to the government's attention the true population of our backward weaver community, supported with proper evidence, it is essential that you all register on our website: **https://nekaaraokkuta.in**
If we fail to organize ourselves and fight collectively, we may lose the current 15% reservation, which would have disastrous consequences for our future and for generations to come. Hence, we request all of you residing across the state to register immediately and also inform your relatives, friends, and family members in other districts about this.
Please log in and register through our website: **https://nekaaraokkuta.in**

For more information, you may contact our association representatives:
Sri V.T. Pichandi : 93412 80248
D. Chandrashekar : 94488 54014

Dear brothers, we request you to complete this process within the month of September.

Thank you
Always at your service, Karnataka Sengundhar Sangha, Bangalore.

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Assets Management Branch, Bengaluru

Authorized Officer's Details:
Name: Sri. Raghunandan K
E-mail Id: sbi.04209@sbi.co.in
Mobile No: 9148103793
Land Line No. (Office): 080-25943489

Address of the Branch:
2nd Floor, Office Complex Building,SBI LHO Campus, No. 65, St. Mark's Road, Bengaluru -560 001
Telephone: 080 -25943470 to 3490
E-mail Id: sbi.04209@sbi.co.in

APPENDIX – IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
E-AUCTION SALE ON 09.10.2025
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagor that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of State Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As Is Where Is", "As Is What Is" and "Whatever There Is"** basis on **09.10.2025** for recovery of **Rs.39,43,56,187.00 (Rupees Thirty Nine Crore Forty Three Lakh Fifty Six Thousand One Hundred and Eighty Seven Only)**as on 30.06.2025 and further interest at contractual rate from 01.07.2025 with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc., due to the State Bank of India, Secured Creditor from the Borrowers and the Guarantors:
The Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit and Bid Increment Amount will be as under:

Property No.	Reserve Price (Below which the properties will not be sold)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Bid increment amount	Time & Date of e-Auction
SBIN200021937224	Rs.5,80,00,000/-	Rs.58,00,000/-	Rs.200,000/-	From 11:00am to 4:00pm on 09.10.2025

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES (Immovable Assets)

Tender No. : SBIN200021937224
Reserve Price (Amt in Rs.): Rs.5,80,00,000/-
Property No. 1
(Title deed holders, 1. Late Ajith Narayan K (now represented by his legal heirs (i) Smt. Rajalakshmi (Wife) (ii) Shri. Rohan (Son) (iii) Smt. Bhavani (Daughter) and 2. Shri. K Sriram S/o. Late V N Krishnamurthy)
a) All that piece & parcel of the Converted Land No. 69/2, measuring 33 Guntas, situated at Madaragally Village, Varuna Hobli, Mysuru Taluk, Mysuru District, the land is converted to Residential purpose by Deputy Commissioner Mysuru District vide their order bearing No. ALN:3:CR:115:2013-14, dated: 13.01.2014,
Property boundaries as per conversion order.
East by: Neeranahalla, **North by;** Sy no. 69/1, **West by**: Sy no. 69/1, **South by:** Sy no. 69/3.
Boundaries As per sale deed
East by: Huchahalla, **North by**: Land of Balasubramanya, **West by:** Land of Srikantaiah, **South by:** Land of Rajashekara
Property No. 2
(Title deed holders, 1. Late Ajith Narayan K (now represented by his legal heirs(i) Smt. Rajalakshmi (Wife) (ii) Shri. Rohan (Son) (iii) Smt. Bhavani (Daughter) and 2. Shri. K Sriram S/o. Late V N Krishnamurthy)
a) All that piece & parcel of the Converted Land No. 69/3, measuring 1 acre 10 Guntas, situated at Madaragally Village, Varuna Hobli, Mysuru Taluk, Mysuru District, the said land is converted to Residential purpose by Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru District, vide their order bearing No. ALN:3:CR:116:2013-14 dated: 13.01.2014
Property boundaries as per conversion order.
East by: Neeranahalla, **North by** : Sy no. 69/1,2, **West by:** Sy no. 70, **South by:** Sy no. 69/4
Boundaries As per sale deed
East by: Huchahalla, **North by:** Land of DoddaThayamma, **West by:** Land of Srikantaiah urf Bangarappa, **South by;** Land of K V Ramesh
Property No. 3 (Title deed holders Shri. K Sriram S/o. Late V N Krishnamurthy)
a) All that piece & parcel of the property bearing Survey No. 69/4, measuring 1 acre 6 Guntas situated at Madaragally Village, VarunaHobli, MysuruTaluk and District. The said land is converted to Residential purpose by Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru District, vide their order bearing No. ALN:3:CR:119:2013-14 dated: 13.01.2014,
Property boundaries as per conversion order.
East by : Neeranahalla, **North by**: Sy no. 59/3, **West by:** Sy no. 70, **South by**: Neeranahalla and Sy. 59/5
Boundaries As per sale deed :
East by : Huchahalla, **North by** : Land of K V Ramesh, **West by:** Road, **South by** : Land of Sukumar

The sale shall be subject to provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
For further details regarding inspection of the property the intending bidder may contact the Authorized Officer, State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Management Branch, 2nd Floor, Office Complex Building, SBI LHO Campus, No. 65, St. Mark's Road, Bengaluru -560 001, Telephone: 080-25943470 to 3490.
To the best of knowledge of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on any of the above said properties.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in PSB Alliance Pvt Limited, **https: baanknet.in**

Date: 11.09.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Assistant General Manager & Authorized Officer
State Bank of India,
Stressed Asset Management Branch, Bengaluru

INBRIEF

Vijay begins State-wide campaign in Tiruchi

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) founder and actor Vijay embarked on his first State-wide political tour from Tiruchi on Saturday, launching a broadside against the "fascist" BJP government at the Centre and "poison" DMK government in the State.

Accusing the two parties of "betraying" and "tormenting" the people, Mr. Vijay, while speaking in Tiruchi and Ariyalur, declared that the TVK's objective was to free Tamil Nadu of poverty, nepotism, and corruption and usher in a true and conscientious democracy.

Lightning claims four lives in Guntur district

Four women were killed and three others sustained injuries in lightning strikes in two places in Guntur district on Saturday.

District Revenue Officer N. Sk. Khajavali said the deceased were identified as Devarapalli Sambrajyam (61) and Thanneeru Nagamma (49) of Anaparru village in Pedanandipadu mandal and Dasari Saramma (39) and Dasari Rani (41) of Nambur village in Pedakakani mandal. All four were working in agricultural fields when the incident occurred.

Kerala SEC to conduct one more electoral roll revision

Ahead of the 2025 Kerala local body elections, the State Election Commission will carry out one more summary revision of its electoral rolls, State Election Commissioner A. Shajahan told *The Hindu* on Saturday. "The final list published on September 2 would be used as the draft list," he said. The September 2 list contained 2,83,12,458 voters. This list had featured 30,18,926 additions and 13,84,724 deletions in the draft.

Kerala govt. 'revises' amoebic infection numbers amid row

The latest data released by Health Department did not mention any suspected cases or deaths; as per the data on September 12, there were a total of 64 confirmed cases and 17 deaths this year

A.S. Jayanth
KOZHIKODE

Amid allegations of an attempted cover-up of the actual number of people infected with amoebic meningoencephalitis and those who have died from the disease in Kerala, the State Health Department has "revised" the official figures on its website.

Till September 10, the data released under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme on the department's website said there had been 42 suspected cases and 18 confirmed cases so far this year. The number of confirmed deaths was just two and suspected deaths were 14. In September alone, there were 11 suspected cases, five suspected deaths, and only two confirmed cases and one confirmed death.

However, the data released by the department on September 11 did not mention any of the suspected cases or deaths. It said there had been 64 confirmed cases and 17 deaths this year. In September, there were 17 confirmed cases and seven deaths. A note below said "a total of 64 cases are microscopically confirmed," adding that "four cases are from other States and 20 cases are PCR-confirmed."

Health hazard: A warning signboard put up next to a pond which has been closed to the public in Kozhikode district. K. RAGESH

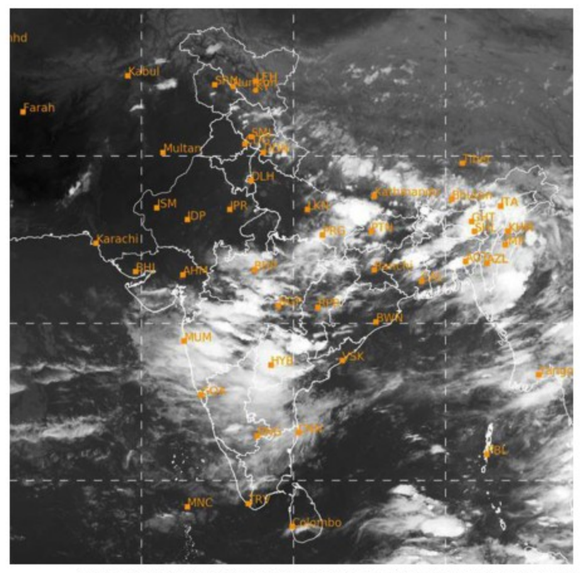
The lack of clarity on the number of affected people and deaths led to the allegation that the department was attempting to hide the data to cover up its "incompetence" in containing brain infection.

Case in capital

In Thiruvananthapuram, a 17-year-old boy was diagnosed with the infection. The total number of cases reported in the district this year has risen to 14. The authorities have shut the pool till further notice.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3	33.2	26.0	Kozhikode	—	33.5	24.6
Ahmedabad	—	34.3	25.1	Kurnool	0.7	29.2	24.2
Aizawl	4	27.7	22.5	Lucknow	—	35.3	26.5
Allahabad	—	36.8	27.3	Madurai	—	38.0	24.6
Bengaluru	—	28.0	21.5	Mangaluru	—	29.6	23.2
Bhopal	—	32.0	23.4	Mumbai	7	29.7	24.8
Bhubaneswar	15.2	32.4	26.2	Mysuru	—	31.6	19.0
Chandigarh	1.4	33.6	26.0	New Delhi	—	35.9	25.2
Chennai	0.4	31.0	28.0	Patna	—	35.3	28.2
Coimbatore	—	33.0	22.3	Port Blair	—	30.4	24.9
Dehradun	33	31.8	22.2	Puducherry	—	30.4	21.9
Gangtok	6	22.6	17.6	Pune	0.4	30.4	23.5
Goa	—	29.5	25.4	Raipur	—	33.5	25.0
Guwahati	2	32.9	26.3	Ranchi	12	31.0	24.2
Hubballi	—	28.0	22.0	Shillong	13	23.9	17.5
Hyderabad	4.4	29.0	22.6	Shimla	3	22.8	18.6
Imphal	22.2	28.6	22.3	Srinagar	—	32.2	18.6
Jaipur	—	34.7	25.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.4	24.3
Kochi	—	30.2	25.4	Tiruchi	—	34.5	25.6
Kohima	5	21.6	18.7	Vijayawada	0.6	31.3	25.6
Kolkata	—	35.0	27.7	Visakhapatnam	22	32.4	25.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.16	..13	29	 40	...103	
Bengaluru	.10	..17	32	 62	...150	
Chennai	...2	..19	.—	 62	...132	
Delhi	.21	..40	68	... 176	...213	
Hyderabad	..—	..10	32	... 151	98	
Kolkata	.10	..18	31	 44	56	
Lucknow	...5	..12	34	... 126	...115	
Mumbai	...4	..—	..9	 66	...129	
Pune	..—	..42	39	 63	...101	
Visakhapatnam	...7	..22	..6	 89	...230	

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 218 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Kerala Bill seeks to aid loan defaulters

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government Cabinet on Saturday gave its approval to a draft Bill that aimed at protecting people who risk losing their only house on account of loan defaults.

The provisions of the Bill are designed to apply to cases where the committees concerned have concluded that the repayment was hit not because of deliberate negligence but due to reasons not under the control of the loanee.

The Bill seeks to offer legal protection, subject to stringent conditions, to people whose annual income is below ₹3 lakh and cases where the total loan amount does not exceed ₹5 lakh and the fine and penal interest is within ₹10 lakh, the government statement said.

Official sources said the provisions of the draft Bill would be applicable to those who availed themselves of loans from public sector, cooperative banks and cooperative societies.

(With inputs from PTI)

After 43 years, Maoist leader surrenders

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Pothula Padmavathi, also known as Kalpana, Mynakka, Mainabai and Sujatha, 62, a senior-most leader of the banned CPI (Maoist), surrendered before the Director General of Police (DGP), Telangana, on Saturday after remaining underground for 43 years.

She was a Central Committee Member, Secretariat Member, South Sub-Zonal Bureau Secretary and in-charge of Janathana Sarkar, the Maoists' parallel governance system under the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee. She carried a reward of ₹25 lakh which has now been given to her.

Padmavathi was married to Maoist leader Mallojula Koteshwar Rao who served as CCM and Secretary of the West Bengal State Committee and was killed by security forces in 2011.

The DGP Jitender called her surrender a moral victory for Telangana's comprehensive policy against the CPI (Maoist).

Telangana CM asserts claim over share of Krishna water

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy stressed that Telangana was entitled to 904 TMC ft of Krishna waters under equitable distribution, and Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, will represent the State at the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal final arguments in New Delhi on September 23, 24 and 25.

Chairing a high-level meeting on Saturday, he said Telangana would not concede "even a drop" of its allocated waters. He asked legal experts to place before the Tribunal records of all projects taken up, proposed, or left incomplete in the united Andhra Pradesh era.

Simian surge

Mischief makers: Monkeys crowd a road at Budhan Pochampalli on the outskirts of Hyderabad on Saturday. With population of monkeys increasing in Telangana, attacks on people and destruction of crops have become common in many parts of the State. NAGARA GOPAL

Special trap cages to be deployed to curb intrusion of wild boars

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Trap cages are to be deployed across all districts in Tamil Nadu where wild boars are commonly found as part of a trap-and-release strategy aimed at managing the growing conflict between humans and wild boars.

Under this approach, the captured animals will be released within 3 km of forest boundaries, keeping them close to their natural habitat while reducing crop damage in nearby farmland.

In January 2025, the Forest Department issued a Government Order (G.O.) permitting regulated culling of wild boars that pose a threat to agriculture near forest areas.

The land adjoining Reserve Forests has been classified into three zones: Zone A (within 1 km of forest limits), where culling is strictly prohibited; Zone B (1-3 km), where only capture and release into forest areas is permitted; and Zone C (beyond 3 km), where culling may be carried out, but only by specially trained Forest Department staff.

While some farmer groups argue that wild boar incursions are severe even within the 3-km zones, the Forest Department maintains that the focus must remain on preventing conflict using non-lethal methods. To support this, customised cages are being prepared for deployment in all conflict-prone districts. Two models are currently under trial, including an assemble-on-ground type designed for quick installation and mobility in the field.

The design also accounts for the behaviour of wild boars, which often travel in herds. As such, the cages are being built to accommodate multiple animals safely, without causing them any injury or distress.

Most-affected districts

An analysis by the AIWC, Vandalur, has shown that Dharmapuri is the most severely affected division, recording the highest number of conflict events by a substantial margin. Following Dharmapuri, Tiruvallur ranks second in terms of conflict frequency, although the number of incidents is notably lower than Dharmapuri.

Over 500 acres of land acquired for Chennai's second airport at Parandur

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Land acquisition for Chennai's second airport at Parandur in Kancheepuram district is gradually gaining pace, with the State government acquiring nearly 540 acres for this project so far.

Three years after the ₹27,400-crore project was announced by the Tamil Nadu government, the Ministry of Civil Aviation gave the in-principle approval in April.

This massive project requires 5,746 acres of land, including 3,774 acres of private patta land in several villages, including Parandur, Eganapuram, Nelvoy, Ciruvallur Thandalam, Thodur, Valathur, Gunakara Pakkam, Magadevi Mangalam, and Podavur.

Staunch opposition: Sources say it will be difficult to acquire land from Eganapuram residents, who have been against the project.

Subsequently, a Government Order was passed in June to begin the land acquisition under the Tamil Nadu Acquisition of Land for Industrial Purposes Act, 1997. The following month, some of the landowners from Nelvoy, Parandur, Valathur, Podavur and Akkamapuram came forward to part with their land parcels.

Sources in the State government said 540 acres of land has so far been acquired for the project in 12 villages. Of this, 50% belongs to the residents of these villages, and the remaining 50% to those who possess land in the project site but live elsewhere. The maximum land acquired has been from Parandur as on date.

Kerala law empowers official to order killing of wild animals posing a threat

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Cabinet on Saturday approved the draft Bill empowering the Chief Wildlife Warden to order the immediate killing of any wild animal that attacks and injures a person after entering a residential area. This is the first time a State has introduced such an amendment in India.

The draft Kerala Forest Amendment Bill, 2025 amends the Kerala Forest Act, 1961.

According to Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran, the Bill will enable immediate action to be taken in the event of a wild animal attack in habitations by eliminating the impractical and time-consuming procedures in the existing Central Act and the standard operating procedure issued by the Union government. The Minister, however, clarified that there is no hindrance under the Bill to protect the species that needs to be protected.

If anyone is seriously injured in a wild animal attack, the District Collector or Chief Forest Conservator concerned reports the information to the Chief Wildlife Warden, who can take action, including killing the wild animal, without wasting time on other procedures.

As per the Bill, there is no need to comply with the provision to obtain permission from the Union government, which has the power to declare any wild animal in Schedule II as vermin.

'Amendment will promote sandalwood cultivation'

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The draft Kerala Forest Amendment Bill, 2025, approved by the State Cabinet on Saturday, allows farmers, who cultivate sandalwood trees on their private land, to sell the wood through registered depots under the Forest department.

Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran said that the legislation would promote sandalwood cultivation by making the price of the wood available to the farmer.

From Page One

Modi calls for harmony in strife-torn Manipur

Buffer zones guarded by central security forces have been carved out between the State's Meitei and Kuki-Zo dominated areas. Travelling through one such buffer zone between Bishnupur and Churachandpur, Mr. Modi's motorcade crossed a damaged bridge that was blown up by miscreants in 2023 and several homes and properties that were burnt during the conflict.

"Manipur is a land of hope and promise. Unfortunately, violence had gripped this magnificent area. A little while ago, I met the affected people who are living in camps. After speaking with them, I can say that a new dawn of hope and confidence is awaiting Manipur," Mr. Modi said in Churachandpur.

He said the Union government would continue to cooperate with the State government to help resettle displaced people in appropriate locations as soon as possible, and to establish peace. More than 60,000 people were displaced during the violence and around 250 people have been killed.

Illegal cross-border migration

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla said that the State would have to address the challenges of illegal migration from across the International Border.

"We as citizens have a duty to safeguard our country and its interest. We cannot afford for our land to be encroached and illegally inhabited by people from beyond the borders. Both State and Centre are committed to take effective steps to address this challenge," the Governor said.

Manipur has been under President's Rule since February 13.

"I am pleased that recently dialogues have begun with different groups in the hills and valleys for reaching agreements. These efforts are part of the Government of Bharat's commitment to establishing peace through dialogue, respect, and mutual understanding. I urge all organisations to move forward on the path of peace, fulfil their dreams, and secure the future of their children," Mr. Modi said.

He said the government is providing assistance to construct 7,000 new homes for displaced families. Recently, a special package of nearly ₹3,000 crore rupees has been approved for the State, while a special provision of ₹500 crore has been made for helping displaced people.

Addressing tribal youth, the Prime Minister said he was "well aware of [their] dreams and struggles", promising that various solutions are being worked out to address their concerns.

In Imphal, the Prime Minister emphasised that the interests of the people must be safeguarded and that those forced to live in camps should be able to return to their normal lives. "Our government is continuously working to ensure peace and stability in Manipur," he said.

Highlighting that the Centre has significantly reduced GST, the Prime Minister said this would bring double benefits to the people of Manipur.

EC claims 'exclusive' power to hold SIR

"A direction to conduct SIR at 'regular intervals' throughout the country would encroach the exclusive jurisdiction of the Election Commission," the poll body said.

The exchange has come in the middle of an ongoing dispute over the Bihar SIR exercise, which petitioners, including Opposition political parties, have claimed to be "citizenship screening" in the guise of a revisional exercise of the State's electoral roll.

The poll body assured that it was "fully cognisant of its statutory duty to maintain the purity and integrity of the electoral rolls".

The EC confirmed there would be a nationwide SIR with January 1, 2026 as the qualifying date.

"There is a letter of July 5 to all Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of States and UTs to initiate immediate pre-revision activities for the SIR of electoral rolls with reference to January 1, 2026 as the qualifying date on a nationwide basis," the EC informed the court.

The poll body said it had convened a conference of all the CEOs of the States and Union Territories in New Delhi on September 10 to "further strengthen and coordinate preparatory measures for conducting SIR" nationwide.

Most tourist spots in J&K have been reopened: Omar

J&K CM Omar Abdullah says one of the challenges that his government has taken upon itself is to try and improve the links between the States south of the Vindhyas and Jammu and Kashmir

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Omar Abdullah addressing reporters in Chennai on Saturday. Good Deeds Club president Apsara Reddy is also seen. R. RAVINDRAN

Most tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir have reopened, and the government is taking all necessary precautions to encourage more people to visit for holidays and film shoots, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Saturday.

Speaking to pressperson on the sidelines of an event organised in Chennai by the Good Deeds Club on Saturday, he said: "One of the challenges my government has taken upon itself is to try and improve connections between the States south of the Vindhyas and Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, we hope that in the future, more people from this part of the country visit to J&K for film shoots and vacations."

Answering questions pertaining to the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, Mr. Abdullah said: "We conducted a comprehensive security audit of all our tourist destinations. Some of them, even at this moment, are not open for tourism activity. However, most places have reopened, and we are taking all necessary precautions."

He said: "There is no gap or difference between the National Conference and the INDIA bloc. We continue to remain a part of it."

On the Prime Minister's visit to Manipur, Mr. Abdullah said: "I think it is a good thing. There has been a lot of commentary about the fact that Prime Minister Modi has avoided travelling to that part of the country, particularly after the violence that broke out in 2023. Better late than never...We hope that peace and calm are restored, and that the differences between the two tribal communities are reduced to the point where people are able to live their lives normally."

Speaking about the India versus Pakistan cricket match on Sunday, Mr. Abdullah said: "Our problem has always been bilateral cricket matches. I do not think we have ever had a problem with multilateral ones, being part of large tournaments. If I understand correctly, this game is part of a tournament. It is not part of a bilateral series between the two countries. If this is a start and things can go in a positive trajectory from there, nothing like it. Very often, sport becomes a victim to politics. And nowhere is this more true than with cricket and the subcontinent. But you can't wish away what happens. My part of the country has been the direct victim of this – more than 35 years of trouble. And this year, we all saw what happened in Pahalgam. These are real concerns that we have. And you can't wish them away."

Statehood promise

Stressing the need for Statehood for Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Abdullah said: "Law and order, policing: these are all responsibilities of elected governments. Jammu and Kashmir has been promised full Statehood by the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, and other representatives of the Government of India when this matter was being argued before the Supreme Court. So there is no reason why this promise should not be kept. Again, this is something that should have already happened. We believe that this promise must be honoured, and the elected government must be empowered in the way the people wanted it to be."

Mehbooba urges Speaker to condemn AAP MLA's detention

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Mehbooba Mufti

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday urged Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather to convene a special session to condemn the detention of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislator Mehraj Malik under the Public Safety Act (PSA). Meanwhile, the situation in Doda district, which witnessed protests in support of Mr. Malik, is gradually returning to normal.

"I urge Hon'ble Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather to call a special Assembly session to condemn the PSA and arrest of MLA Mehraj Malik. A resolution can put pressure on the Union government to release Malik and protect all MLAs from future targeting. Also, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah should extend legal aid to thousands of poor Kashmiris languishing in jails across India. They need it the most," Ms. Mufti said.

Describing the detention of the AAP MLA as "an attack on democratic values and institutions", she said, "The J&K government should have resolved the matter through legislative procedures rather than placing an elected representative behind bars. Invoking PSA against an MLA is unacceptable."

She pressed for a joint resolution through the Assembly to be sent to Delhi. " Undermining democratic institutions by targeting elected leaders is sheer injustice," Ms. Mufti said.

Highlighting the plight of youth lodged in prisons in Tihar, Agra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh, she said, "They need to be offered legal help."

Referring to the AAP's stand on the abrogation of Article 370 and the recent detention of AAP MP Sanjay Singh during his Kashmir visit, Ms. Mufti remarked, "Those who supported the abrogation of Article 370 are now facing its consequences. The AAP voted for its removal in 2019, claiming it was good for J&K. Today it has realised the reality."

Political slugfest in Maharashtra over India-Pakistan match

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra over India playing against Pakistan in the ongoing Asia Cup cricket tournament, Shiv Sena (UBT) Chief Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday said Mr. Modi 'preferred trade and money over nationalism'. In response, BJP leader Nitish Rane questioned the 'absence' of Mr. Thackeray during Operation Sindoor.

'Business of *deshbhakti*'

Terming the BJP's nationalism a "business of *deshbhakti*", Mr. Thackeray accused Mr. Modi of preferring business and money over the lost lives of Indians in the Pahalgam attack.

"This cricket match is an insult to the national sentiment. Should we be playing cricket with Pakistan while our soldiers sacrifice their lives on the borders? Modi claimed our war is against terrorism. What will he say now? Operation Sindoor was launched in response to the Pahalgam attack, and the defence officer claimed that the operation is still ongoing. Therefore, how can we proceed [with the match] now? The BJP and Modi prefer trade over country and Hindutva." he said.

Mr. Thackeray also criticised the BJP for tagging people 'anti-nationals'.

This is the first time the India and Pakistan cricket teams come together for a tournament after the Pahalgam attack, in which 26 civilians were killed, worsening the political relations between India and Pakistan.

While announcing the '*Maza Koonku, Maza Desh*' (My Sindoor, my country) campaign to protest the India-Pakistan match scheduled on Sunday, Mr. Thackeray said, "We will collect sindoor in boxes and send it to Mr. Modi."

BJP media chief Navnath Ban criticised the campaign and said, "Instead of the '*Maza Koonku, Maza Desh*' campaign, Shiv Sena (UBT) should run a 'My Laden, My Pakistan' campaign. BJP Minister Nitesh Rane also slammed Mr. Thackeray for his outcry of nationalism and questioned why he forgot to talk about Operation Sindoor when he was in London.

Separate vegetarian tables at IIT, Kharagpur driven by student circular: Director

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Suman Chakraborty

Days after a controversy erupted over tables in a dining hall at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur being segregated as vegetarian and non-vegetarian, the Director of the institute on Saturday said there was no official directive for such a segregation, which was driven by a section of students through an informal email. He said the media had misrepresented the situation and blown it out of proportion.

"We never sent any official directive from the IIT, Kharagpur for such segregation. There are over 16,000 students, a section of them is doing this for their own vested interest," the newly appointed Director, Suman Chakraborty, told *The Hindu* on Saturday. Issuing such a notice was beyond their purview, he added.

"We never sent a notice to segregate in the first place, and the media has reported that we have revoked the order. This is a clear misrepresentation," said Professor Chakraborty, adding that the administration intervened when it learnt of the segregation. Such discrimination has no place in the institute, he said.

Alumni, students, and many others were outraged by an email sent last month by Nilanjan Paul, Mess Secretary of B.R. Ambedkar Hall, asking for strict adherence to seating rules at dining halls. "In recent days, complaints have been increasing about boarders occupying vegetarian tables while eating eggs, fish, or chicken. This goes against the mess seating rules and shows a lack of respect for others' food preferences, affecting a harmonious environment. All boarders are instructed to strictly follow the seating rules," said the email, dated August 16, which went viral on social media.

In view of the escalating controversy, the chairman of the Hall Management Centre sent a notice to all IIT, Kharagpur wardens on September 7, prohibiting such segregation. "It is hereby advised to all the Halls of Residence that the segregation of mess food in terms of vegetarian, non-vegetarian, Jain and other categories should be done only at the levels of preparation and distribution. There must not be any such segregation for seating in the dining hall," the letter said.

'Veg tables are a fixture'

A source on the campus who wished to remain anonymous told *The Hindu* that vegetarian tables had always been there in every dining hall in the residential halls, and this is not a new decision. "They removed the 'veg only' sign that was there on certain tables in every mess after the photos went viral. But this has always been there. Most students do not care about such things, people mingle freely," the source added.

Prasenjit Bose

Economist Prasenjit Bose set to join Congress

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Economist and social activist Prasenjit Bose, who is well known in the social and political circles of West Bengal, is all set to join the Congres. Mr. Bose, 51, had resigned from the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in 2012 over differences with the party for supporting the candidature of Pranab Mukherjee as the President.

"There is an assault on the Constitution by the government of the day. The battle against it is being fought by the Congress party and Rahul Gandhi. They are only one who are trying to protect the Constitution," Mr. Bose told *The Hindu* confirming his decision to join the Congress party.

The economist has led several movements in the State against the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and was the convener of Joint Forum against NRC, Kolkata.

Of late, Mr. Bose has actively taken up the issue of land acquisition at Deocha Pachami Coal Mining project in West Bengal's Birbhum district and faced a clamp down by the ruling party All India Trinamool Congress and the government for highlighting the issue of tribal rights.

Mr. Bose said that at this moment the biggest challenge before the people is to resist Special Intensive Revision (SIR) so that the people's right to vote is protected.

Former Meghalaya CM D.D. Lapang passes away

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Former Meghalaya Chief Minister Donwa Dethwelson Lapang passed away at a hospital in Shillong on Friday night. He was 93.

Members of his family said he was battling age-related ailments for a long time. He left behind his wife, Amethyst Lynda Jones Blah, and two children.

Rags-to-riches story

He was born on April 10, 1932, and his was a rags-to-riches story. From a road construction worker, he rose to become the Chief Minister of Meghalaya four times, albeit without completing a term.

A labourer by day, he graduated from an evening college in Shillong and served as a teacher at a school in Nongpoh for five years.

Nongpoh later became the headquarters of the Ri-Bhoi district, which he helped create.

After serving as a typist at the Assam Secretariat, he went on to become an inspector of schools.

D.D. Lapang

Lapang started his political career by contesting and winning the Nongpoh Assembly constituency as an Independent candidate in 1972, the year Meghalaya was carved out of Assam as a separate State. He later joined the Congress party.

His first stint as the Chief Minister was from 1992 to February 1993.

Forced to step down

He returned to the post in March 2003, but dissidence within the Congress-led coalition government forced him to step down in June 2006.

He was sworn in for the third time in March 2007. After the Assembly elections the following year, he was sworn in again on March 10, 2008, but resigned nine days later as he could not prove his majority in the 60-member House.

His fourth and final tenure as the Chief Minister began on May 13, 2009, following two months of President's Rule in the State. He resigned on April 19, 2010.

After more than 40 years of association with the Congress party, the late Lapang joined the Conrad K. Sangma-headed National People's Party in 2018. He was made the Chief Advisor to the Meghalaya government that year.

Another Maoist killed in Bijapur operation

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Three Maoists carrying a total reward of ₹24 lakh were killed in an anti-Maoist operation conducted in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district for the past two days, said a police officer on Saturday.

The police had declared on Friday that two Maoists had been killed, one more body was recovered on Saturday under the same operation, Superintendent of Police (Bijapur) Jitendra Kumar Yadav said. "On September 12 at Lendra Korcholi, two Maoist cadres were neutralised and one .303 rifle, one 12-bore gun, explosives, and other Maoist material were recovered. On September 13, at Kakekorma, in a follow-up search operation, one Maoist cadre was neutralised and a 12-bore gun, one barrel grenade launcher, explosives, and Maoist literature were recovered," he added.

Manipur's displaced people meet PM, seek safe passage to home, jobs

Living in relief camps ever since the violence broke out in the State in 2023, the people, who met the Prime Minister Modi amid heavy security, urge him to restore their livelihoods and ensure free movement through National Highway no. 2

Vijaita Singh
CHURACHANDPUR/IMPHAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on his first-ever visit to Manipur since ethnic violence erupted in the State, met separate groups of people in Churachandpur and Imphal on Saturday, who were among the 60,000 displaced from their homes in 2023.

The meetings were held in a separate enclosure amid tight security at Peace Ground in Churachandpur and Kangla Fort in Imphal, the two venues where he addressed thousands of residents and inaugurated a slew of projects.

The Hindu spoke with some of the internally displaced people who met the Prime Minister.

N. Samananda Singh, 40, a retired Navy man, whose home and an under-construction resort at Moreh were burnt down in May 2023, said that he requested the Prime Minister for a regular source of income for the inmates of the relief camp where he is staying now.

Federal outreach: Narendra Modi speaks to people displaced by ethnic violence in Manipur in Imphal on Saturday. PMO/ANI

Mr. Singh and 380 other people are staying on the campus of a college, a part of which has been turned into a relief camp.

"I told the Prime Minister that we need jobs, there is no regular source of income... many people have committed suicide here or died of diseases. We cannot secure the future of our children. We have to depend on others for food or work as daily wage labourers during the day to make ends meet," he said.

Post the violence, the Meiteis are living in the Imphal valley and the Kuki-Zo people in the hills

Poor income

Mr. Singh said they use the little money they earn to meet the medical needs of their children or other emergencies.

He said National Highway no. 2, which connects Imphal valley to Dimapur in Nagaland and further to Assam, had not been opened yet for the movement of the Meitei people. The Union Home Ministry announced last week that the highway, which passes through Kuki-Zo areas in Kangpokpi district, has been opened for free movement of all vehicles.

"The NH should be opened. We cannot afford air travel. If the roads open, we can travel to Guwahati in Assam and earn some money," he said, adding that the Prime Minister said the State and Central governments will soon find a solution regarding jobs for the displaced people.

After the violence, the Meiteis are based in the Imphal valley, and the Kuki-Zo people are living in the hill districts surrounding the valley. Buffer zones have been created between the valley and the hills.

Chingtham Lembi Devi, 20, a college student, told the Prime Minister that she is "tired" of living in the relief camp and wants to go home.

A resident of Moreh, Ms. Devi said here home was burnt down on May 4, 2023, when the family took refuge at a nearby Army camp amid raging violence in the town, adjacent to Myanmar border.

At Churachandpur, Lhingjoujam Haokip, 18, a student whose home in the valley was destroyed in the violence, said that the Prime Minister spoke in Hindi and though she could not understand much, he ensured that "he will solve everything". Twelve-year-old Nengmeihoi recited a poem in Hindi in front of Mr. Modi, while Samuel, 20, who used to live in Imphal before the violence erupted, said he told the Prime Minister that efforts should be made to restore their livelihoods.

Modi's 'farce' Manipur visit a grave insult to strife-torn State's people: Cong. chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Describing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Manipur as a "pit stop", the Congress on Saturday alleged it was an insult to the people of the strife-torn State.

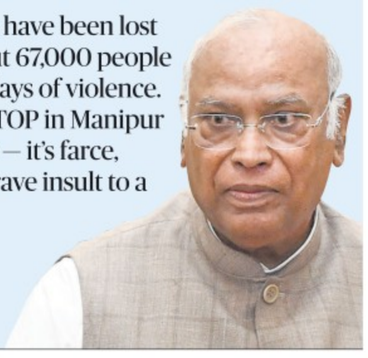
"300 lives have been lost and about 67,000 people displaced in 864 days of violence," Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post on X.

"Your 3-hour PIT STOP in Manipur is not compassion – it's farce, tokenism, and a grave insult to a wounded people," Mr. Kharge said, addressing Mr. Modi.

The party's communications chief Jairam Ramesh said it was "insensitive" on the part of the Prime Minister to spend less than five hours in the State.

"The people of Manipur have waited patiently for the PM to visit. He has finally obliged them today. But he was in the State, from landing till take-off, for less than 5 hours. The PM has the time (and the inclination) to spend days campaigning and traveling across the world. But is Manipur worth only so much to him? It is shockingly insensitive," Mr. Ramesh said on X.

> 300 lives have been lost and about 67,000 people displaced in 864 days of violence. Your 3-hour PIT STOP in Manipur is not compassion — it's farce, tokenism, and a grave insult to a wounded people
>
> **MALLIKARJUN KHARGE**
> Congress President



'Two years late'

Echoing him, the Congress's Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, said Mr. Modi's visit was "two years late", and it was focused more on his image than the ground reality.

Mr. Gogoi, who heads the Assam Congress, said the Prime Minister's visit should have been the first step towards peace in the tate, when ethnic strife broke out in May 2023.

"The first step on the journey to peace and healing in Manipur should have been Prime Minister Modi's visit to the State two years ago," Mr. Gogoi said in a post on X.

"Now two years late, his visit should primarily be about respecting the sentiments of the northeast. Instead, the optics are tone deaf and concentrated on the image of the Prime Minister rather than the ground reality," the Congress leader added.

Where does Rahul get these figures on SIR from, asks Nadda

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Saturday slammed Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, over raising questions on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. He took a dig at the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), saying when the party was in power, it was a "dark reign".

Mr. Nadda was addressing a function organised by a media house in Patna.

Criticising Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for raising questions on the SIR ahead of the upcoming Assembly election, Mr. Nadda said: "Where does Rahul Gandhi get these figures from on SIR and what is his [knowledge of] mathematics? There is a saying in Hindi that '*naach na jaane aangan tedha*' (blaming the stage for not knowing how to dance.) Similarly, when the public does not bless them in elections, the entire Opposition, including the Congress, is blaming the Election Commission. This is an irresponsible Opposition."

Mr. Nadda said that RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his son Tejashwi Yadav, who is the Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Legislative Assembly, should apologise for what happened during their regime.

He said that in 2003, there was an atmosphere of fear in Patna and elsewhere in Bihar.

"At that time, an MLA was killed in broad daylight, and the killer was close to Lalu Prasad. There is a big difference between crime and state-supported crime. They just wanted to push Bihar into darkness," he alleged.

"The leaders of the INDI alliance [INDIA bloc] are just hungry for power; that is their vision and mission. They are only concerned with their own self-interest, and have no concern for the people of Bihar or India," he added.

He met BJP leaders in Patna to discuss the election strategy.

On the draw

Northeast suffered heavily from vote bank politics, but is now a growth engine: PM

Press Trust of India
AIZAWL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the northeastern region had earlier suffered heavily from "vote bank" politics, but was now being transformed into the country's growth engine by the efforts of the BJP-led government at the Centre.

During his second visit to Mizoram after 2014, Mr. Modi launched projects estimated at ₹9,000 crore, and addressed a public rally virtually from the Lengpui airport near Aizawl as he could not reach the venue, Lammual Ground in the heart of the city, owing to heavy rain.

Mr. Modi flagged off a new Rajdhani Express between Aizawl and Delhi and other strategic projects to augment rail, highway, energy, and sports infrastructure.

"For a long time, some political parties in our country practised vote-bank politics. Their focus was always on places that had more votes and seats. The entire northeast, including States such s Mizoram, suffered greatly because of this attitude. But our approach is very different – those who were earlier neglected are at the forefront now. Those who were once marginalised are now in the mainstream. For the past 11 years, we have been working for the development of the Northeast, and the region is becoming the growth engine of India," he said.

New journeys: Folk artists pose next to the train flagged off by the Prime Minister from the Sairang Railway Station. R.V. MOORTHY

He said Mizoram played a major role in the Centre's "Act East" policy, and the Kaladan multimodal transit project and railway lines would connect the state with Southeast Asia.

'Historic day'

Unveiling the ₹8,070-crore Bairabi-Sairang line, which integrated landlocked Mizoram fully with the country's railway network, the Prime Minister said it was a historic day for the State as the 51.38-km stretch would connect the State capital, Aizawl, with major metropolises.

He said the project, which was implemented by overcoming various challenges and difficult terrains, would revolutionise people's lives in the State and become a lifeline for transportation.

He flagged off three new express trains connecting Aizawl with Delhi, Guwahati, and Kolkata.

"This is not just a railway connection, it is a lifeline of transformation. Farmers and businesses of Mizoram can reach more markets across the nation. People will be able to access more options for education and healthcare. This will also create employment opportunities in tourism, transport and hospitality sectors," the Prime Minister said.

Modi lauds Sushila Karki, Nepal's first woman PM

Vijaita Singh
IMPHAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday congratulated Sushila Karki, who was sworn in as the first woman Prime Minister of Nepal.

The Himalayan nation was affected by violent anti-corruption protests over the past one week leading to the resignation of Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli.

Addressing a public gathering at Imphal in Manipur, Mr. Modi remarked that Nepal, nestled in the lap of the Himalayas, was a close friend and trusted partner of India.

Emphasising that both countries were bound by shared history, faith, and a collective journey forward, the Prime Minister extended heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Karki on assuming office as the Prime Minister of Nepal's interim government.

Taking stock: Sushila Karki arrives at Civil Hospital to meet people injured amid anti-corruption protests in Kathmandu on Saturday. AP

Mr. Modi expressed confidence that she would pave the way for peace, stability, and prosperity in the neighbouring country. Her appointment, the Prime Minister said, is a remarkable example of women empowerment. He appreciated every individual in Nepal who upheld democratic values even in a climate of instability.

Highlighting a notable aspect of recent developments in Nepal that had not received much attention, Mr. Modi said over the past two or three days, young men and women in Nepal had been seen diligently cleaning and painting the streets with a spirit of dedication and purity.

He said he had seen their images circulating on social media. Mr. Modi described their positive mindset and constructive actions as a clear indication of Nepal's resurgence.

'Bhupen Hazarika taught us humanity'

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday underscored the lessons of humanity in the songs composed by Bhupen Hazarika, revered in Assam as 'Sudhakantha' (nectar-voiced) and the 'Bard of Brahmaputra'.

Participating in the celebrations for the 100th birth anniversary of the late Hazarika, Mr. Modi cited some lines from the music maestro's compositions to stress the need to build bridges and be compassionate.

"Bhupenda sang *maanuhe maanuhor baabe, jodihe okonu nebhaabe* (if man does not feel for man, who will?). His songs convey the spirit of humanity," Mr. Modi said.

Earlier, he released a ₹100 centenary commemorative coin and a biography on the late singer.

APPOINTMENT

CSIR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
UPPAL ROAD, HYDERABAD, TELANGANA – 500007

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW NOTIFICATION NO. PS/08/2025

CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad is conducting Walk-in-Interviews on 26th September 2025 for the positions of Project Staff having qualifications of M.Sc. in Chemistry/ M.Tech in Chemical Engineering/ B.Tech in Chemical Engineering/ M. Pharm/ B.Sc etc.

For full details visit our website **www.iictindia.org**

Sd/-
Controller of Administration

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान भोपाल
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित)
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal
(Estb. by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

Advt. No.: IISERB/DOAA/2025/02 September 14, 2025

Admission for Academic Year 2025-26

Applications are invited for the semester commencing from January 2026.

Ph.D. Programme (For National and International Students)

Natural Sciences Stream : Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Physics.
Engineering Sciences Stream : Chemical Engineering, Data Science and Engineering (DSE), Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS).
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Details of qualification, eligibility, application form and application procedure are available on **https://www.iiserb.ac.in/admission**

Last Date for Submission of Application: **October 13, 2025**
(Updates, if any, shall be notified on the Institute website)

हैक्षणिक अधिष्ठाता

Regional Institute of Education (RIE), NCERT
(A Constituent Unit of NCERT, MoE, GoI)
VR College Campus, Trunk Road, Nellore–524 001

Vacancy Notification No. 02/2025
Applications invited for temporary positons:
System Analyst (1 post) - JPF (3 posts)
For details visit: **www.ncert.nic.in and www.riemysore.ac.in**
Officer on Special duty (OSD)

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT KARAIKAL

No.27/1&PH/TN/2025-26 Dt.12.09.2025

e-TENDERING NOTICE INVITING BID THROUGH RFP

On behalf of the President of India, Bids are invited for "Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Source Augmentation & Drink-From-Tap (24x7) Water Supply Scheme in Karaikal District, UT. of Puducherry" Earnest Money: Rs. 3,25,000/- Period of Completion: 3 Months (Including Monsoon period). Last time & date of submission of tender: 06.10.2025.

For further details please refer the website www.pudutenders.gov.in from 10.00 A.M on 15.09.2025

Sd/-
No, 237/DIP/KKL/ADVT/2025 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - I&PH

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान तिरुवनंतपुरम
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
MARUTHAMALA P.O., VITHURA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Tel: 0471-2778044, 8031

NON - FACULTY RECRUITMENT 2025

IISER(T)/HR/001/2025 14th September 2025

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Thiruvananthapuram invites applications from eligible Indian nationals for various non-faculty posts (Junior Office Assistant (MS), Junior Assistant (MS), Junior Technical Assistant, Lab Assistant, Nursing Assistant, Attendant).

The last date of submission of applications online is by 17.00 hrs on 06.10.2025.

For detailed advertisement, please log on to:
http://www.iisertvm.ac.in/openings/active_openings
02/2025-26 dt 14.09.2025 **REGISTRAR**

INBRIEF

Exotic Eustoma blooms in Odisha with NBRI efforts

Eustoma, a flower until now available in Odisha only through imports, has bloomed locally for the first time, opening up vast opportunities for farmers to cultivate the exotic plant and reap profits. The National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), a research arm of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), has achieved a breakthrough by cultivating the exotic flower, native to Mexico and America, in Odisha after successfully growing it on its campus in Lucknow. The flower bloomed in a polyhouse developed by the NBRI at Sanatanpali in Sambalpur. It said Eustoma can be grown twice a year, earning up to ₹2 lakh an acre in a season.

Madras HC judge M. Sundar to head Manipur High Court

The Union government on Saturday announced the appointment of Madras High Court judge Justice M. Sundar as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur. Union Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal made the announcement. "In exercise of the power conferred by the Constitution of India, the President of India, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, is pleased to appoint Shri Justice M. Sundar, Judge, Madras High Court as Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur with effect from the date he assumes charge of the office," Mr. Meghwal said in a post on X. The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended Justice Sundar for the post.

The Bengal Files screened in Kolkata amid high security

Almost a week after its release, *The Bengal Files*, a film that has courted controversy over depiction of the communal riots of 1946 in Kolkata, was screened on Saturday in the National Library complex in Kolkata. The director of the film, Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri, and BJP leaders Swapan Dasgupta and Sishir Bajoria were present. Speaking at the screening, Mr. Agnihotri gave a statement that no cinema hall or multiplex was ready to screen the film because of high pressure from the Trinamool Congress party. He said the film was based on history and it had marked this day historic as the film was screened for the first time in Kolkata.

Amit Shah to inaugurate 2nd National Conference of ANTF

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the 2nd National Conference of Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Heads of States and Union Territories in Delhi on September 16. On the occasion, Mr. Shah will also release the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Annual Report 2024 and launch an online Drug Disposal Campaign. ANTF Heads from 36 States and Union Territories, along with stakeholders from other government departments, will attend the conference, scheduled for September 16 and 17. "The conference will serve as a strategic platform to reinforce Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to a drug-free India." a release said.

SUDOKU

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	3	8	2				6	5
6							2	
	1		9			8		
5								1
		6			1		7	
	2							9
3	8				7	6	5	
				5	2	7		3

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	4	2	5	6	3	7	8	9
7	6	8	9	4	2	5	3	1
9	3	5	8	7	1	4	2	6
6	8	4	1	5	7	3	9	2
5	1	7	3	2	9	6	4	8
2	9	3	6	8	4	1	7	5
3	7	9	2	1	6	8	5	4
8	2	1	4	3	5	9	6	7
4	5	6	7	9	8	2	1	3

Confusion over clearances for Great Nicobar project persists

Tribal Affairs Ministry tells Calcutta HC that it should be 'removed from the list of respondents' as implementation of law was within the domain of Union Territory; it says NOC was 'given on the basis of facts given by the islands administration'

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Forest rights: The Calcutta HC is hearing a batch of petitions challenging the forest clearance given for the ₹81,000-crore Great Nicobar Islands development and Infrastructure project. ISTOCKPHOTO

Months before seeking a report from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration on alleged violations of forest rights while executing the ₹81,000-crore Great Nicobar Islands development and infrastructure project, the Tribal Affairs Ministry had told a Bench of the Calcutta High Court that it should be dropped as a party in a petition that challenged the project's clearances on the same grounds.

The court is hearing a batch of petitions challenging the forest clearance. The petitions, filed by the former official Meena Gupta, argue that provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 were violated in obtaining the consent of the tribespeople to divert about 13,000 hectares of forestland for the project, which includes a transshipment port, an airport, a power plant, and a township.

Earlier this week, the Ministry sought a "factual report" from the islands administration on a fresh complaint from the Tribal Council of Little and Great Nicobar that processes under the Act had not even been initiated in Nicobar, contrary to what the Deputy Commissioner of Nicobar certified in August 2022, claiming that all rights under the legislation had been identified and settled and consent obtained for diversion.

The Union Environment and Tribal Affairs Ministries and the islands administration had filed pleadings before the court between January and February. In these affidavits, the Environment Ministry said it was yet to receive a compliance report from the islands administration on the completion of all 37 conditions imposed in its Stage I clearance for the project, of which one is the FRA compliance.

In defending itself and insisting that all procedures under the FRA were followed, the islands administration has accused the petitioner of "cloaking" a "private interest litigation" petition as a public interest litigation petition.

FRA is State domain

However, the Tribal Affairs Ministry, the nodal Ministry for the FRA, has submitted that it should be "removed from the list of respondents", arguing that the implementation of the law falls upon the respective State or Union Territory. In its February 19 affidavit, the Ministry denied and disputed all assertions made in the petition.

Notably, with regard to the no-objection certificate issued by it in 2020 for the project, mandating FRA compliance, the Ministry said the NOC was "given on the basis of facts given by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration in the de-notification proposal".

This comes even as Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram told *The Hindu* in 2024 that his Ministry would look into the clearances obtained for the project. Earlier this year, Mr. Oram had said at a public event that the Ministry was looking into the concerns raised about the project.

Land a State subject

In its complaint, the Tribal Council for Little and Great Nicobar alleged that this certificate amounted to a "false" representation as the process for recognising and vesting rights under the FRA had not even been initiated on the Nicobar islands.

However, in submissions to the High Court, the Environment Ministry has not mentioned this certificate.

It has said that land is a State subject, further asserting that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for the Forest Rights Act, 2006. In its affidavit, dated January 14, it went on to submit that no provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, "abrogate" any part of the FRA.

Consensual adult relation not sexual assault: HC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has observed that if two adults, even if one is married, choose to live together or have a sexual relationship, they must accept responsibility for the consequences of that decision.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, in a judgment delivered on September 10, remarked that "it is not open to one party, after the relationship turns sour, to retrospectively paint it as a crime of sexual assault". The observation came while quashing a rape case against a man employed as a pilot on the complaint of a cabin-crew member.

The complainant alleged that she had been subjected to repeated sexual intercourse under false promises of marriage, despite the accused being married, and was forced to undergo three abortions. She further alleged threats, intimidation, physical and psychological abuse, and blackmail.

The man argued that the relationship was consensual from inception, without any promise of marriage.

The court took note that the woman was aware of the man's marital status at the outset, yet continued the relationship for over two years.

Despite law, strength of disabled Union govt. staff not rising: data

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

People with disabilities have never accounted for more than 1.1% of Union government employees in the decade since the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act came into force in 2016, despite the law increasing the reservation for them from 3% to 4%.

The Supreme Court on Friday expressed concern that such persons who qualify "on merit" are being recruited to reserved posts only, denying these seats to lower-scoring candidates in the category.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta asked the Centre to provide information on whether or not "merit" candidates are pushed "upward" to unreserved posts to make room for candidates who need the reservation.

Data from the Department of Personnel and Training show the strength of employees with disabilities in Union Ministries and departments has stayed in a range of 13,000 to 22,000 since 2011, accounting for 0.5% to 1.1% of all posts.

It is unclear how many of these employees were hired for reserved posts.

Falling short

- Despite the 2016 law raising reservation from 3% to 4%, the strength in Union govt. jobs have never crossed 1.1%.
- Their numbers have stayed between 20,000–22,000 from 2016 to 2022, making up just about 1% of the workforce

Group-wise representation (2022)

Group A: Lowest share
Group B: 1.53%
Group C (non-Safai Karmachari): 1.1%
Group C (Safai Karmachari): 1.93%

Recent figures

In January 2022, the last available date for the data, there were 21,874 such persons employed by these Ministries, accounting for 1.15% of the Union government workforce. The highest representation was found in Group C (*Safai Karmachari*) posts, where they make up 1.93% of all employees; in Group A posts, however, only 1% are filled by them. In Group B posts, their representation was 1.53% and in Group C (non-*Safai Karmachari*) posts, 1.1%.

Over a decade earlier, in January 2011, the total number of such employees in the Union government was 15,747, making up less than 1% of all Union government staff at the time. The department's annual reports show that between January 2016 and January 2018, there was a jump in the representation of people with disabilities in Union government posts, crossing the 1% mark to 1.13% in January 2018.

Incomplete data

However, the data have been incomplete since 2018, without including not all Ministries' data, resulting in the total reported employee strength falling from 30 lakh in 2016 to 20 lakh in 2018.

In absolute terms, the number of such employees in Union government posts rose marginally from 20,000 in 2016 to 22,000 in 2022.

Before 2016, the government implemented 3% reservation for people with benchmark disabilities (over 40% disabilities). The Act, however, mandated that this be increased to 4%, with 1% of this quota set aside for specific types of disabilities.

SC to deliver verdict on pleas for stay on Waqf Act tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will on Monday pronounce judgment on a plea to stay the implementation of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, which over a 100 petitioners described as a "creeping acquisition" of Muslim properties while the government defended as a necessary counter to "rampant encroachment" on public and private properties.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai had heard the case back-to-back for three days in May. The hearing was wrapped up on May 22 and the case was reserved for judgment.

The case had reached the Supreme Court in early April, hours after the Waqf (Amendment) Bill of 2025 was cleared by Parliament.

On April 17, a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice Gavai's predecessor, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, nudged the government into giving an undertaking in court against making any attempt to change the character or alter the status of Waqf properties across the country on the basis of these amendments. However, the case came up again before a two-judge Bench of Chief Justice Gavai – Justice Khanna retired on May 13 – and Justice A.G. Masih on May 15, and further hearings were scheduled from May 20.

The petitioners' side, led by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, answered that the court could stay the law in public interest if its execution would cause irreparable injury. He said the amendments directly encroached on a minority community's right of freedom of religion.

They argued that the 2025 Act would effectively invalidate unregistered waqf-by-users. Many of the age-old waqfs had no deeds to prove identity.

SC restores Rajasthan royal estates to Khetri Trust

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has restored the ₹3,000-crore historic estates of a Constituent Assembly member and former parliamentarian, Raja Bahadur Sardar Singh, to a trust he created for charitable purposes after a nearly four-decade-old litigation with the State of Rajasthan over his will.

The court's recent order, published on Saturday, would act as a precedent against the government interfering in or caveating private wills without first proving intestacy (absence of a will) and a complete absence of heirs. A Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma realised Singh's instruction in his 1985 will to bequeath his assets to the Khetri Trust, an organisation founded by the former Rajasthan royal, who played a part in the framing of the Constitution, to promote education and advance the study of science, literature and the arts in India.

The Khetri Trust website shows the chairman as Maharaja Gaj Singh, a former Rajya Sabha member and former Indian High Commissioner. The trustees include Prithvi Raj Singh; Lord Northbrook (Francis Thomas Baring), a British Conservative politician; Ajit Singh, Additional Director-General of Police of Rajasthan; and Kanupriya Harish, a development specialist. The estates include landed properties and palaces in Jaipur, Khetri, Chiwara, Singhana, Kotputli, and Mount Abu in Rajasthan.

The estates had been locked in dispute with the State of Rajasthan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The estates had been locked in a dispute with the State of Rajasthan, which had claimed them on the principle of escheat (heirless property devolving to the state). The State had contested the will, claiming Mr. Singh had died 'intestate' or without a will.

The State had refused to give up the litigation even after a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court probated or validated the authenticity of Singh's will. Upholding the High Court decision, the top court Bench observed the State government was a "stranger" which had no *locus standi* (the right to bring a dispute to court) whatsoever to challenge the former royal's will.

"Only when there is failure of heirs that the estate of an intestate Hindu would devolve on the Government under Section 29 (principle of escheat) of the Hindu Succession Act. This means that till that stage arrives, the government is a stranger to the probate proceedings and any proceeding regarding succession under the personal law," the Bench said.

The court further noted that a grant of probate by a competent court of law could be challenged only by likely heirs of the testator either through an appeal or by seeking revocation of the probate. The State cannot presume *locus standi* by merely invoking the Rajasthan Escheat Regulation Act of 1956, the court said.

INBRIEF

U.S. FDA issues 5 observations to Dr. Reddy's Hyderabad unit

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued five observations to the biologics manufacturing facility of generic drugmaker Dr. Reddy's Laboratories in Hyderabad. The observations followed a pre-approval inspection (PAI) of the facility in Bachupally, Hyderabad, the U.S. FDA conducted from September 4-12. "We have been issued a Form 483 with five observations, which we will address within the stipulated timeline," the company said.

Roche Pharma, GHs partner for clinical trial capabilities

Roche Pharma said it has partnered with 10 government hospitals to strengthen clinical trial capabilities in India. Under the initiative, nearly 400 professionals have been trained as per global Good Clinical Practice (GCP) standards. "By equipping leading government hospitals with global-standard clinical trial capabilities, we are helping to bring innovations faster to India," said Sivabalan Sivanesan, country medical director, Roche Pharma India. PTI

Court bars Birla Corp from putting resolution to vote

Birla Corporation said a Kolkata court has passed an ex parte order, restraining the company from putting to vote a resolution on adopting a new set of Articles of Association at its upcoming 105th AGM scheduled for September 15. In a regulatory filing, the firm said the injunction restrains the company from conducting any poll, including remote e-voting, or publishing results in respect of item no. 5 under "special business" related to the new Articles of Association. PTI

Adani Power to invest $3 bn in 2,400 MW project in Bihar

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Adani Power on Saturday said it will set up a 2,400 MW ultra super-critical power plant in Bihar at an investment of $3 billion (around ₹26,482 crore).

The Adani group company said that it has signed a 25-year Power Supply Agreement (PSA) with Bihar State Power Generation Company Ltd. (BSPGCL) to supply power from the project that will come up at Pirpainti in Bhagalpur district.

The PPA is further to the Letter of Award issued by BSPGCL to Adani Power, on behalf of North Bihar Power Distribution Company Ltd. (NBPDCL) and South Bihar Power Distribution Company Ltd. (SBPDCL) in August.

Adani Power won the project by offering the lowest supply rate at ₹6.075 per KWh. The company said it plans to invest approximately $3 billion to build the new plant (800 MW X 3) and its supporting infrastructure under the Design, Build, Finance, Own, and Operate (DBFOO) model. The company aims to commission the plant in 60 months.

The coal linkage for the power plant has been allocated under the Centre's SHAKTI Policy.

The project will generate direct and indirect employment for 10,000-12,000 people during the construction phase and 3,000 once in operation.

About 60% of India's outward FDI goes to 'tax havens'

An analysis of RBI data by *The Hindu* shows that nearly 56% of such investments in 2024-25 were in low tax jurisdictions such as Singapore, Mauritius, UAE, the Netherlands, U.K. and Switzerland

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

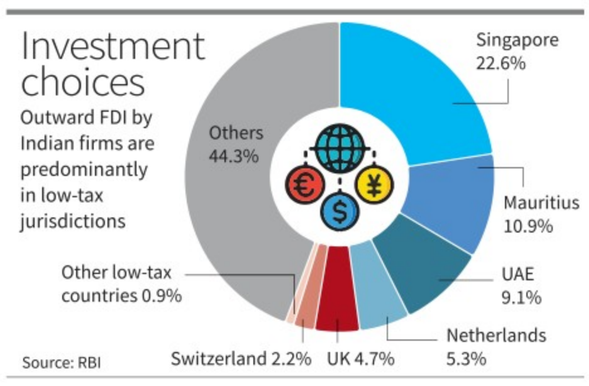
Indian companies are increasingly leveraging low-tax jurisdictions abroad to channel their foreign investments in a bid to increase their global presence, according to data as well as tax and investment experts.

An analysis by *The Hindu* of data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which closely tracks outward investments by Indian companies, shows that nearly 56% of such investments in 2024-25 were in low tax jurisdictions (commonly called tax havens) such as Singapore, Mauritius, the United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland.

In other words, out of the total ₹3,488.5 crore of outward foreign direct investment (FDI) by India in 2024-25, about ₹1,946 crore went to these low tax jurisdictions.

In fact, just three of these countries – Singapore (22.6%), Mauritius (10.9%), and the UAE (9.1%) – accounted for more than 40% of India's outward FDI in 2024-25.

Further, this trend seems to have increased in intensity in the current financial year. In the first quarter, these low tax jurisdictions accounted for 63% of India's total outward FDI. However, while countries around the world, including India, have sought to crack down on the trend of companies shifting profits to these tax havens, experts have said that choosing these low tax jurisdictions is also a strategic imperative for Indian companies, and not just a tax issue.



"If Indian companies are making investments outside India, then having them through a company set up in one of these jurisdictions makes a lot of sense," according to Riaz Thingna, Partner, Grant Thornton Bharat.

He said that, if an Indian company is looking to set up a subsidiary in Europe, the US, or any other country, then doing it through a special purpose vehicle in Singapore or a similar jurisdiction will help them in getting strategic investors, and in providing better tax positioning at the time of stake dilution.

"These jurisdictions are also more flexible in transferring funds and investments on a day-to-day basis," Mr. Thingna explained. So, very often, these investments are not being made only to evade, avoid or reduce tax. They are often made because these jurisdictions form platforms for investment in third countries."

First level

Vaibhav Luthra, Tax Partner at EY India, too, explained that the RBI data does not provide the ultimate investment destination, but only shows the first level of outward investments.

According to Luthra, these low-tax or "tax efficient" jurisdictions not only provide a tax advantage, but also offer tax stability. Apart from this, they also come with other advantages for Indian companies looking to invest abroad.

"A lot of the time, for things like fund raising, or for an investor coming in, they usually like coming in at these intermediate jurisdictions," he explained. Also, having an entity in the middle also protects the Indian parent company."

Mr. Thingna also pointed to the propensity of foreign companies to choose a low-tax jurisdiction to form a joint venture rather than in India.

"If the Indian company is looking for a strategic partner, a strategic partner from any other country will be happier investing into the Singapore entity, or one in a similar jurisdiction, than into the Indian entity because of our FDI regulations, our taxation and various other elements," Mr. Thingna explained.

The RBI data also points to this trend.

The data for July 2025, the latest available data on outward investment, shows that joint ventures accounted for almost 60% of the investments made by Indian companies in the low-tax jurisdictions.

Tariff outcome

Mr. Thingna was also of the belief that the high tariffs imposed by the U.S. on imports from India could induce Indian companies to invest abroad, if they continue.

"There could be a lot of companies who will set up subsidiaries and other entities outside India, where the value addition is done, and accordingly escape the harsher tariffs on India," Mr. Thingna said.

"This has not happened yet, as the tariffs are recent, but it could happen."

Dip in issue of CDs leaves MFs without avenue to park funds

Suresh P. Iyengar
MUMBAI

Issue of certificates of deposit (CDs) by banks has fallen sharply in the last few months, pushing mutual funds to explore alternative money market instruments such as treasury bills and commercial papers to park funds.

The net CD issuance plunged 84% to ₹13,000 crore in the June quarter from ₹85,299 crore in the March quarter, per data sourced from Bandhan Mutual Fund. In July, it was down by ₹2,855 crore or 6% with new issuances at ₹46,805 crore and matured at ₹49,660 crore. Similarly, in August it was down by ₹19,585 crore or 21% with new issuance at ₹71,685 crore and matured at ₹91,270 crore.

The fall in CD issuances was largely due to bank deposits growing faster than credit offtake, reducing the need for short-term borrowing by banks.

As of August-end, credit take-off increased 10% year-on-year to ₹186 lakh crore. However, this is significantly lower compared with the 15% growth logged last year.

In the same period, deposits rose 10% y-o-y to ₹235 lakh crore, down from 11% recorded in the previous year. The credit-deposit ratio remained flat sequentially at 79.3%, staying below 80% for the 11th consecutive fortnight.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Emirates marks 25 years of operations in Chennai, its 'cornerstone market'

Murali N. Krishnaswamy
CHENNAI

Reaching out: The airline supports the local community through its Foundation's partnership with CHES. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On September 1, 2025, Emirates, the world's 'largest international airline', marked the silver jubilee of its air link with Chennai. What began on September 1, 2000, as a 174-seat Airbus A310-300 service – four flights a week and the carrier's third destination in India – has now expanded to a three flights a day, 400-plus seat all-Boeing 777-300ER service (currently, 21 flights a week). In October 1985, the airline launched its flights from Dubai to New Delhi and Mumbai, the foundation of its initial route network. It now flies to six more destinations – Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram. In an exclusive e-mail interview with *The Hindu*, Mohammad Sarhan, Vice-President - India and Nepal, Emirates, said the airline continues to support Chennai's expanding role in trade, technology, manufacturing and enterprise by offering the city's travellers, seamless global connections through its hub in Dubai, and access to new markets.

He said the key metrics were 10.7 million-plus passenger traffic between Dubai and Chennai, since 2000, on over 38,000 flights; 19,300 tonnes of cargo uplift from Chennai (in the last financial year), consisting of fresh fruit and vegetables, pharmaceuticals and general goods, and connectivity to the airline's network across six continents. Emirates SkyCargo, the airline's dedicated air freight division, had facilitated the export of perishable goods and agricultural produce and the import of 16,400-plus tonnes of predominately general cargo and mixed foodstuff.

Customer loyalty

Distinguishing itself by being the sole widebody operator on this route, he said the airline's 'continuous investment in enhancing products and services' is a step that has helped Emirates retain customer loyalty in a very competitive market. Passenger experience service innovations include Artificial Intelligence-enabled operational analytics and smarter disruption recovery.

Mr. Sarhan said Chennai continues to be a cornerstone market with a focus on business, leisure seekers, and a significant visiting friends and relatives (VFR) segment.

Some of the top outbound destinations from Chennai include San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Washington DC, Dallas, Boston, Seattle, Paris, London, Manchester and Frankfurt. He said Emirates also supports 'strong inbound flows' from the same key markets, in addition to Kuwait.

In a comparison of regional competitor airports (South India), he said that while Bengaluru and Hyderabad have grown rapidly with newer infrastructure and added capacity, which includes Airbus A380 operations in Bengaluru, Chennai has retained its strength with a large outbound base, robust trade activity and a growing preference for premium travel. The airline has also deepened its commitment to the local community through the Emirates Airline Foundation's partnership with the Community Health Education Society (CHES).

Together, they have established the Emirates-CHES Home, which cares for over 100 destitute youngsters, including HIV-positive children. Support includes care and medical support.

Mr. Sarhan said the airline remained hopeful that a review of the current bilateral air services agreement with India would allow the airline to better meet growing travel and cargo demand.

Exporters with 'high exposure' to U.S. seek support from banks

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

'The cost burden on MSMEs has increased as banks continue to recover pre-shipment premium'

Exporters who have high exposure to the U.S. market have urged the Reserve Bank of India and the Centre to announce relief measures at the earliest such as longer duration for pre- and post-shipment credit and interest equalisation scheme.

Pankaj Chadha, chairman of EEPC India, said in a press release that in the wake of the recent U.S. tariffs on Indian exports, the industry was anticipating a significant loss. India's engineering exports to the U.S. averaged around $20 billion. Access to affordable export financing is a necessity for MSMEs. The Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) that was discontinued in 2024 earlier provided significant relief by lowering borrowing costs for exporters. The government should reinstate the scheme, particularly for MSMEs, Mr. Chadha said. The cost burden on MSMEs has increased as banks continue to recover the pre-shipment premium from the exporters. They continue to face difficulties when seeking finance from banks and financial institutions, where high collateral requirements persist, he added.

Recent data has indicated that due to the U.S. exposure of engineering exporters, their credit rating has been affected, he said.

Corteva launches pesticides for use on potato, grapes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Global pesticides company Corteva Agriscience has launched two pesticides against diseases like 'Downy Mildew' in grapes and 'Late Blight' in potatoes.

The company claimed that both the chemicals will transform potato, grapes cultivation in India.

A release from Corteva said building on the globally successful Zorvec technology, this advanced solution offers growers protection against the devastating diseases and will lead to healthier crops, higher yields and superior quality produce.

"Zorvec Entecta delivers a unique combination of advanced chemistry and powerful performance. Its active ingredients provide strong and reliable control against oomycetes plant diseases," it said.

The release added that the chemical is secure and protected from wash-off just 20 minutes after application.

Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), (AI under DST, Govt of India)
Manora Peak, Nainital- Uttarakhand

Applications (online) are invited for **44 posts** (Technical/ Scientific, Administration and Supporting) for **direct recruitment / deputation basis in Group 'B' and 'C'**.

Last date: **17th October, 2025**

On line Application: **https://www.aries.res.in/opportunities**

Registrar

M.P. ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)
45-A, Arera Hills, Bhopal–462 011, Madhya Pradesh (CIN : U45203MP2004SGC016758)
Ph. : 0755-2527290/2765205 Fax : (EPBX), Fax : 0755-2572643
Website : www.mprdc.gov.in
NIT No.679/MPRDC/Procu/2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation Limited (MPRDC) Bhopal invites online tender for Consultancy services for the preparation of feasibility report/DPR for 2/4 lanning with paved shoulder of the following MDRS and State Highways (SH) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Package No.	S. No.	Name of Road	Road Length (In Km.)	Package Length (In Km.)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Bid Security (In Rs.)
Package-H (2nd Call)	1.	Uchera-Nagod Road	36.00	382.46	20,000/-	2,00,000/-
	2.	Access road to Acharpura Industrial Area	4.00			
	3.	Datia-Dinara Road	26.50			
	4.	Ashoknagar-Ishagarh Road	35.00			
	5.	Guna-Ashoknagar Road	44.83			
	6.	Ashoknagar-Vidisha (Bangla Chauraha) Road	35.57			
	7.	Shahganj-Barkheda Road	18.70			
	8.	Bhind-Mihona-Gopalpura Road	50.86			
	9.	Bhind-Bharauli-Amayan-Lahar-Atian Road	60.00			
	10.	Gohad-Mau Road	32.00			
	11.	Ashoknagar-Thubon-Kurwa-sa-Tigadi Road	39.00			

The dates for purchase, submission of tender etc. are mentioned in the key dates. Tender forms can be purchased online only upto 15:30 hrs. on **14.10.2025** from website : **www.mptenders.gov.in.** The bidders have to submit the Technical bid as well as Financial Bid online only. The Addendum/Corrigendum (if any) shall only be published on the website of **www.mptenders.gov.in** only. If holiday is declared by Govt. of M.P. on the date of opening, the same will automatically be shifted to subsequent working days. MPRDC reserves the right to accept/ reject any/all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

M.P. Madhyam/122059/2025 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

‘Patient perceptions drive frivolous antibiotic use in India’

The Hindu Bureau

Antimicrobial resistance is one of the most pressing global health threats of the 21st century, already causing around 5 million deaths a year. A major driver is the overuse of antibiotics, particularly for conditions that don’t benefit from them.

This problem is acute in low- and middle-income countries. India in particular issues more than half a billion antibiotic prescriptions annually in the private sector alone. Although most cases of childhood diarrhoea are viral and should be treated with ORS and zinc, for example, studies have shown that about 70% of cases are still treated with antibiotics.

‘Lack of knowledge’

One possible explanation for why providers overprescribe antibiotics despite knowing better is lack of knowledge. However, earlier evidence has suggested another force at work, called the know-do gap, i.e. the gap between what providers know and what prevents them from following it. Understanding which of these gaps matters more is crucial to determine what the appropriate solution is: training programmes or different interventions.

In a new study in *Science Advances*, an international team of researchers, including from IIM-Bangalore and an NGO named NEERMAN in New Delhi, studied 2,282 private providers in Karnataka and Bihar. First, they assessed knowledge through hypothetical cases of viral diarrhoea. Then they used “standardised patients” – trained actors posing as caretakers – to observe real prescribing behaviour. Randomised experiments tested the effects of patient preferences, financial incentives, and drug availability.

Half the providers displayed poor knowledge but even among those who knew antibiotics were unnecessary, 62% still prescribed them. Closing the knowledge gap would reduce inappropriate prescribing by only about 6 percentage points while closing the know-do gap could reduce it by 30, the study reported.

The team also showed the main driver was providers’ belief that patients wanted antibiotics. When actors expressed a preference for ORS, antibiotic use fell sharply. Financial incentives and drug supply played little role.

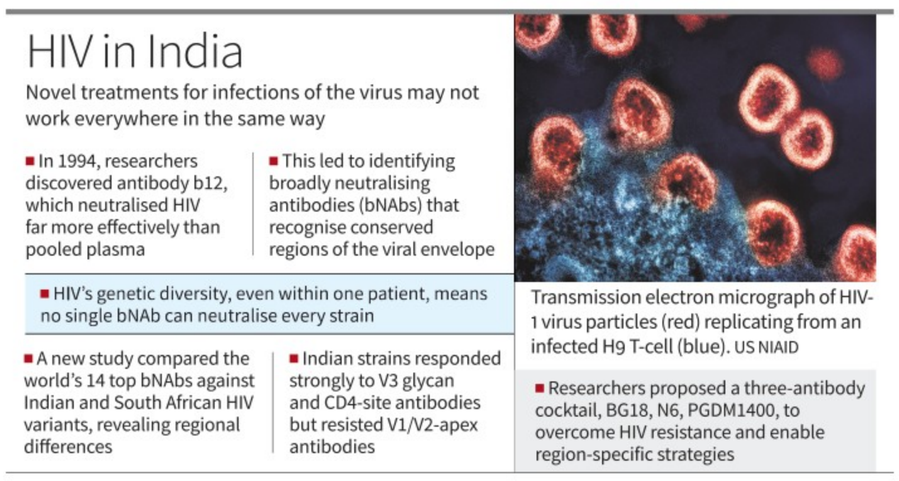
These findings suggest that simply educating providers may not suffice to curb antibiotic misuse. Many already understand correct practice but act differently, fearing they will disappoint patients or lose them to competitors if they don’t offer “strong medicines”.

In reality, patients cared more about kindness, trust, and overall treatment quality than about receiving antibiotics. This mismatch between perception and reality fuels the know-do gap, per the study. The study also highlighted the importance of targeting less-trained providers, such as pharmacists and rural medical practitioners, who showed the widest gaps.

HIV strains in India resist some broadly neutralising antibodies

Researchers have found that Indian strains of HIV were most effectively neutralised by bNAbs targeting the virus’s V3 glycan while antibodies aimed at the V1/V2 apex of the viral spike protein were far less effective

Arun Panchapakesan



In 1994, a landmark paper in *Science* reported the isolation of an antibody called b12 from an HIV-infected individual. The study showed that while pooled plasma containing billions of antibodies from HIV patients could neutralise viruses isolated from only 3 of 12 patients, b12 alone achieved similar neutralisation in 8 of the 12, and that, with one-fifth the amount of the pooled plasma. Soon, other antibodies with similar properties were identified that were capable of neutralising a wide range of HIV variants at low concentrations. These protein molecules, called broadly neutralising antibodies (bNAbs), raised hopes that they may one day help end the pandemic.

But while hundreds of bNAbs have since been identified from different HIV-infected individuals, the genetic variation demonstrated by HIV poses a challenge. Even within a single patient, countless viral variants coexist, making it virtually impossible for any single bNAb to neutralise every virus. The virus also counters combinations of bNAbs by invading cells, then remaining silent and not producing new virus particles, thus evading immune detection.

Notwithstanding the fact that only a small fraction of people with HIV ever develop bNabs on their own, researchers are currently working to induce their production by vaccination. The effort is worth it because, unlike conventional antibodies, bNAbs recognise conserved regions of the viral envelope: sites that the virus cannot change without compromising its survival. One such location is the site the virus uses to bind to CD4 receptors on the T-cells for infection.

HIV can be classified into ‘subtypes’, which are similar but not identical variants of the virus. Each subtype has innumerable strains that circulate. No single bNAb can block all of them. Even within the same subtype, strains can differ in how sensitive they are.

A recent paper published in the *Journal of Virology* by a team of researchers led by Jayanta Bhattacharya of the Translational Health Science & Technology Institute, Faridabad, has found that bNAb effectiveness can also differ between viruses of the same subtype circulating in different geographical regions.

‘Strong resistance’

The study, funded by the Team Science Grant of the DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance, compared the ability of 14 of the best bNAbs in the world to neutralise contemporary HIV variants circulating in India and South Africa.

The researchers found that Indian strains of HIV were most effectively neutralised by broadly neutralising antibodies (bNAbs) that target a region on the viral surface known as the V3 glycan. Antibodies directed against the CD4 binding site also showed good activity, though somewhat less so. In contrast, antibodies aimed at the V1/V2 apex of the viral spike protein were far less effective, with most Indian strains showing strong resistance to this class. An intriguing pattern also emerged: viruses that resisted neutralisation by V1/V2-apex antibodies were often well controlled by CD4-binding-site antibodies.

Building on these observations, the team proposed a novel cocktail of three bNAbs called BG18, N6, and PGDM1400, that they predict to be able to neutralise a large proportion of circulating Indian HIV-1 strains with high efficiency. Such rational combinations could help overcome the virus’s ability to evade individual antibodies.

The study also uncovered striking regional differences.

When viruses from India were compared with those from South Africa, the researchers found that Indian strains were more sensitive to antibodies such as N6, 10-1074, and BG18, but slightly more resistant to CAP256-VRC26.25. According to Prof. Bhattacharya, these differences likely arise from subtle changes in the viral spike protein, particularly in the structural motifs that form the antibody binding sites. These altered motifs can determine whether a particular antibody will be effective.

He also emphasised that the results of the study unearth opportunities for region-specific HIV prevention strategies, such as passive immunisation of high-risk individuals with carefully chosen antibody cocktails or the design of vaccines that elicit similarly broad and potent antibody responses. He also highlighted the need for ongoing surveillance of both viral diversity and antibody effectiveness to ensure the most promising antibody combinations are prioritised for clinical development.

Overall, the study highlights an important lesson for HIV researchers worldwide. Because HIV’s genetic diversity allows it to evolve differently in different parts of the world, novel treatments and vaccines may not work everywhere in the same way.

As Prof. Bhattacharya pointed out, regional studies like this one are essential to design therapies that are truly effective worldwide.

(Arun Panchapakesan is an assistant professor at the Y.R. Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education, Chennai)

In AI meeting tools, experimentation matters more

DECODED

John Xavier

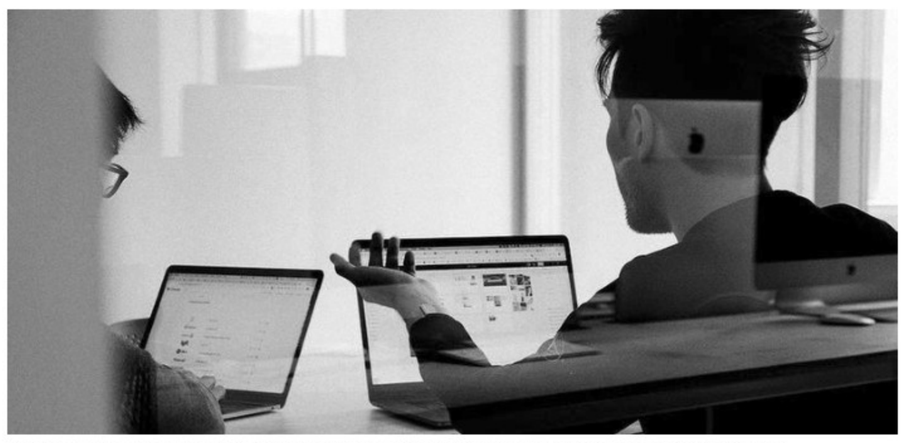
AI-powered meeting tools are everywhere these days. They promise to take notes, highlight action items, and make meetings more efficient, without requiring you to scribble down details or stay fully engaged. At first glance, these tools seem like a dream come true for teams trying to stay organised and save time. But if you’re planning to use them or have already started, it’s worth pausing for a moment before handing over control to automation.

The reality is that these tools are far from perfect. They can be helpful, but they’re only as good as the structure you provide and the effort you invest in learning how to use them. You can’t just “set and forget”. Doing so will likely lead to frustration and wasted effort. The problem isn’t that AI is broken; it’s that teams often treat these tools like plug-and-play solutions instead of something that needs to be tested, adapted, and refined.

The ideal way to put these tools to use is by setting clear processes in place. Without that, you end up with incomplete summaries, missing context, or notes that no one trusts. That’s not a flaw in technology, but a flaw in how it’s being used.

Just like in any system where you’re trying something new, the first few attempts may be messy. But rather than expecting perfection from the start, it’s far more effective to treat the tool as something that improves with feedback and practice.

One key mistake teams make is assuming that automating a task means it’s solved. Meeting notes aren’t just about capturing words, but they’re about interpreting meaning, assigning responsibility, and reinforcing decisions. GenAI tools struggle with nuance. If your team hasn’t built clear guidelines on what’s important, how decisions are made, or how follow-ups are tracked, AI will simply mirror the confusion.


AI can genuinely add value but it can also complicate the process. CHARLES DELUVIO/UNSPLASH

You need to experiment with how you use these tools. Try them out in small groups first, see where they succeed, and where they fall short. Pay attention to the kinds of meetings where they’re most helpful. Is it in status update meetings where facts are clear, or brainstorming sessions where context and emotion matter more?

Use this feedback to adjust your workflows. Treat errors not as failures, but as signals that the system needs more tuning.

Over-reliance

Another pitfall is over-reliance. Some teams assume that by simply recording everything and summarising it afterward, they’ve solved the problem of follow-through. But without clarity in communication, these summaries can become noise. Important points get buried, assumptions go unchallenged, and the real work stalls. Automation doesn’t replace judgment; it only supports it when used thoughtfully. What’s more, tools that work well for one team may not suit another. Different teams have different styles of communication, decision-making processes, and levels of formality. This is why it’s essential to treat tools as adaptable, and not as one-size-fits-all solutions. Explore how your team functions, and tailor the tool to support those patterns rather than trying to force the team to conform to the tool’s limitations.

Approach these tools with a mindset that embraces trial and error. Test them in varied scenarios, ask for honest feedback, and be prepared to iterate. Over time, you’ll discover where the AI genuinely adds value and where it simply complicates the process.

SNAPSHOTS

Machine-learning algorithms underestimate self-harm risk

A review of 53 studies that tested machine-learning algorithms designed to predict suicide or hospital-treated self-harm has revealed that their ability to correctly identify people who will go on to harm themselves was usually below 50%, meaning more than half of those at risk were misclassified as “low risk”. The authors concluded that such algorithms can’t be trusted to allocate expensive treatments to “high-risk” groups either and recommended all patients receive needs-based assessments.

Fiji ant numbers plunged after humans came

Researchers sequenced the DNA of more than 4,000 specimens preserved in museums, representing over 120 species, and found that 79% of Fiji’s endemic ant species are now in decline, with losses starting soon after humans arrived about 3,000 years ago. In contrast, species introduced by people or that naturally occur widely in the Pacific are expanding. This work highlights how human activity, including farming, land clearing, and species introductions, has reshaped island ecosystems.

Roots of low milk production glimpsed

Researchers collected milk samples from 30 women and sequenced RNA from fat globules and milk cells. They found that globules carry genetic signals closely matching milk-producing cells, making them a useful noninvasive tool for studying lactation. The team also found that the gene *PLIN4* was elevated in low producers and *KLF10* in high producers. This work suggests new biological targets to treat breastfeeding difficulties.

Question Corner

Red planet blues

Does Mars have life?

Since the previous century, scientists have been reporting signs of life on Mars. In 1976, a Viking mission experiment reported signs of metabolism, but another detector found no organic molecules. In 1996, the meteorite ALH 84001 was presented with microfossil-like shapes but lab studies reproduced similar features through nonbiological processes. In the 2000s, several teams reported methane in Mars’s atmosphere but later measurements failed to confirm those levels. Reports in 2005 described life sheltered in Martian caves and sustained by liquid water. However, NASA issued a correction later saying there was no observational evidence. On September 10, scientists reported data from the Perseverance rover indicated the presence of mudstones in Mars’s Jezero Crater, containing carbon, ferrous phosphate, and sulphide minerals. The study said organic materials and these minerals often occur together, raising questions. The authors concluded only detailed lab studies of samples brought from Mars to earth could settle the questions.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

What has WHO highlighted on mental health?

How are countries facing up to the challenge? What are the gaps in current care models? How is India doing?

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

The story so far:

More than 1 billion people are living with mental health disorders, according to recent data from the World Health Organization (WHO). These conditions include anxiety and depression among others that are taking an immense human and economic toll. The WHO has said that while many countries have bolstered their mental health policies and programmes, greater investment and action are needed globally to scale up services to protect and promote mental well-being.

Why is mental health important?

Mental health conditions affect people of all ages and income levels. They are the second leading cause of long-term disability, contributing to loss of healthy life. They drive up health-care costs for affected people and families while inflicting substantial economic losses on a global scale. "Transforming mental health services is one of the most pressing public health challenges," said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

What are the key findings?

The new findings published in two reports – *World mental health today* and *Mental Health Atlas 2024* – highlight some areas of progress while exposing significant gaps in addressing mental health conditions worldwide. The report shows that while prevalence of mental health disorders can vary by sex, women are disproportionately impacted. Anxiety and depressive disorders are the most prevalent mental health conditions among both men and women. Suicide remains "a devastating outcome", claiming an estimated 7,27,000 lives in 2021 alone. It is a leading cause of death among young people. Progress made in reducing suicide mortality is too low to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of a one -third reduction in suicide rates by 2030. On the current trajectory, only a 12% reduction will be achieved. Additionally, the economic impact of mental health disorders is staggering. Depression and anxiety alone cost the global economy an estimated $1 trillion each year.

> Stigma, reluctance to seek help, and lack of manpower remain major concerns in India. A Delhi Medical Association member pointed out that India also faces a significant shortfall of mental health professionals

What are the flaws in mental care system?

While many countries have adopted rights-based approaches, and enhanced preparedness for mental health and psychosocial support, this momentum has not translated into legal reform, states the report. Fewer countries have adopted rights-based mental health legislation, and only 45% of countries evaluated laws in full compliance with international standards.

The report reveals a concerning stagnation in mental health investment. Median government spending remains at just 2% of total health budgets – unchanged since 2017. While high-income countries spend up to $65 per person, low-income countries spend as little as $0.04. The global median number of mental health workers stands at 13 per 100,000 people.

Reform and development of mental health services is progressing slowly. Fewer than 10% of countries have fully transitioned to community-based care models. Inpatient care continues to rely heavily on psychiatric hospitals, with nearly half of admissions occurring involuntarily and over 20% lasting longer than a year. Integration of mental health into primary care is advancing, with 71% of countries meeting at least three of five WHO criteria. However, only 22 countries provided sufficient data to estimate service coverage for psychosis. In low-income countries, fewer than 10% of those affected receive care, compared to over 50% in higher-income nations.

What is India's status on mental health?

According to a senior Health Ministry official, stigma and reluctance to seek help and lack of manpower remain the major concerns. "There has been major infrastructure development, the national tele-mental health programme has expanded, educational development is happening at a fast pace and focused work is being done to create awareness,'' he said.

However, Anil Bansal, member, Delhi Medical Association, noted that India's direct mental health budget has remained at roughly ₹1,000 crore for recent fiscal years, with FY 2025-26 allocating ₹1,004 crore.

"Adequate funding for community-based programmes and the effective utilisation of funds is still a concern,'' he said. He added that India has a significant shortfall of mental health professionals, with roughly 0.7 psychiatrists per 100,000 people, far below the WHO's recommended ratio of 3 per 100,000 people.

(Those in distress can seek help at Tele-MANAS helpline at 14416 or 18008914416)

How has Gen Z forced changes in Nepal?

What led to the protests? How are they different from previous agitations? What does the young generation want? Did pro-monarchy supporters play a role in the violence? Does the Constitution allow Parliament to be dissolved because of protests? What happens to the interim government?

Srinivasan Ramani

The story so far:

On September 4, 2025 in Nepal, the (then) ruling Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) [CPN-UML]'s K.P. Sharma Oli-led government banned 26 major social media platforms, citing non-compliance with registration requirements. This triggered widespread Gen Z-led protests from September 8, with demonstrators viewing it as an attempt to silence dissent. The protests quickly escalated from peaceful gatherings in Kathmandu to violent confrontations. At least 34 people died and over 1,000 were hospitalised. The next day, multiple government buildings were attacked, including Parliament, the Supreme Court, the Prime Minister's office complex and even the leading media house Kantipur's headquarters. Politicians' homes were burned down and prisoners freed from jails, including arrested politician and ex-minister Rabi Lamichhane of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP). Prime Minister Oli also resigned on September 9. After three days of negotiations involving the President, Army Chief General Ashokraj Sigdel, and Gen Z leaders, former Supreme Court Chief Justice Sushila Karki was appointed as interim Prime Minister with a mandate to conduct elections by March 2026. She immediately recommended dissolving Parliament.

What are the reasons for the protest?

In recent years, many Nepalis have migrated out of the country for better job opportunities. Social media outlets are used not just for venting about mis-governance but also for communication and business. The youth, however, did not term the protests as targeted only at the social media ban, but also against corruption. Ever since the 2015 Constitution, power has alternated between three leaders – Mr. Oli, Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) of the CPN (Maoist-Centre), and Sher Bahadur Deuba of the Nepali Congress. Despite the relatively progressive Constitution, governments have been unable to improve economic conditions, providing unstable governance through constantly changing alliances.

> A 'musical chairs' approach to governance prevented consistent economic development, fuelling public discontent

Flames and fury: An aerial view of smoke rising from the Federal Parliament of Nepal after it was set on fire by protesters. PTI

What makes this uprising different?

The 2025 Gen Z uprising differs fundamentally from Jan Andolan 1 (1990) and Jan Andolan 2 (2006) in leadership, triggers, and objectives. Unlike previous movements led by established political parties like the Nepali Congress and UML in 1990, and the Seven Party Alliance with Maoists in 2006, the 2025 protests were driven by Gen Z activists with no traditional party affiliations. The movement was largely coordinated through social media platforms like Instagram and Discord.

Jan Andolan 1 was aimed at ending the Panchayat system to establish constitutional monarchy. Jan Andolan 2 sought to end absolute monarchy and establish a republic through a Constituent Assembly. The 2025 uprising occurred within an existing democratic republic but challenged the political class, demanding dissolution of Parliament and new leadership outside traditional parties.

Were monarchist forces behind the violence?

In the violence on September 9, multiple government buildings were targeted. Politicians' homes were also attacked and burned. Gen Z activists claimed that vandalism and arson were not done by them but by miscreants who infiltrated the protests. While it is too early to say that pro-monarchy activists were responsible for the September 2025 violence, there has been a pattern of pro-monarchist activity in recent months. In March 2025, pro-monarchy rallies turned violent, resulting in casualties when royalist forces clashed with security personnel. Former king Gyanendra's arrival in Kathmandu that same month sparked rallies calling for monarchy's return.

How was the interim government formed?

Following Mr. Oli's resignation, Nepal entered a three-day power vacuum. The selection process involved the President's Office, the Nepal Army, Gen Z leaders with the Army Chief playing a crucial mediating role. Hami Nepal, a non-profit organisation led by 36-year-old Sudan Gurung, originally established for earthquake relief in 2015, emerged as a key voice. The organisation had gained credibility through disaster relief work during COVID-19. Gen Z youth conducted online discussions before collectively endorsing Sushila Karki. Several prominent figures were considered, including Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah (who ultimately endorsed Ms. Karki), former Nepal Electricity Authority chief Kulman Ghising, ex-education minister Sumana Shrestha of the RSP, and Dharan Mayor Harka Sampang.

President Ram Chandra Poudel appointed Ms. Karki under Article 61 of the Constitution, citing "extraordinary circumstances."

What about the dissolution of Parliament?

The dissolution could likely be unconstitutional. Article 76(7) of Nepal's 2015 Constitution allows dissolution only after failed Prime Minister appointments and requires the PM's recommendation. Article 66(2) mandates Presidential actions must occur "on [the] recommendation of the Council of Ministers." No constitutional provision permits dissolution based on public protests alone. The fact that dissolution occurred immediately after the interim PM's appointment makes it constitutionally questionable, as it bypassed procedures. This could constitute grounds for judicial review by the Supreme Court's Constitutional Bench.

Major political parties including the Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, and CPN (Maoist Centre), along with the Nepal Bar Association, have condemned the dissolution as "unconstitutional" and "arbitrary".

What are the upcoming challenges?

The 2025 uprising highlights fundamental flaws in Nepal's post-2015 political settlement. While the 2015 Constitution established a progressive federal democratic republic with provisions for inclusive representation, its implementation has been marked by chronic political instability. The "musical chairs" approach to governance by the three major parties has prevented consistent policy implementation and economic development, fuelling public disillusionment.

Besides, the Constitution's federal structure remains incomplete, with disputes over provincial boundaries and resource distribution. The Gen Z movement's extra-constitutional success was an outcome of its impatience with traditional democratic processes. The interim government's ability to conduct credible elections by March 2026 and whether new political forces can emerge to challenge the established triumvirate will be crucial tests. Nepal's future depends on whether a newly reconstituted polity can move beyond patronage toward genuine policy competition. However, if anti-democratic forces exploit this moment to reverse the gains of the previous Jan Andolans, then Nepal will undergo democratic regression.

What are Foreigners Tribunals' new powers?

What do the Rules of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 specify? How many tribunals are operational in Assam? How have their roles changed? What is the order on Sri Lankan Tamils in India? Which nationalities are eligible for exemptions?

Vijaita Singh

The story so far:

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) recently notified Rules, Order and Exemption Order, which made the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 operational. Parliament passed the legislation to regulate all matters relating to foreigners and immigration in April. It repealed and replaced several Acts, the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920; the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939; the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000.

What was the rationale?

The Government said a new legislation was required to avoid multiplicity and overlapping of laws on passports or other travel documents in respect of persons entering and exiting from India, and to regulate matters related to foreigners' visa, registration and immigration issues. Though most provisions in the newly notified Rules, Order and Exemption Order were there in past notifications, certain new clauses and conditions have been added, considering the vast changes that have occurred after the original pre-Independence Acts came into existence.

> Foreigners Tribunals, so far unique to Assam, have been given the powers of a first class judicial magistrate

Under the scanner: The rules insert legal provision for recording of biometric information of all foreigners. AFP

What does the Immigration and Foreigners Rules say?

For the first time, the Rules legally designate the Bureau of Immigration (BOI) to "examine cases of immigration fraud" and co-ordinate with the States to identify, deport or restrict the movement of foreigners and collate and maintain an immigration database among others. Though the BOI earlier also performed similar functions, its role was regulatory and not mentioned in the law. In another first, the Rules insert legal provision for recording of biometric information of all foreigners, earlier restricted to a few visa categories and enforceable through executive orders of the MHA.

Educational institutes will have to inform the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) about all foreign students and even provide semester-wise "academic performance" summary such as attendance details and "general conduct" report. While earlier, the "civil authority" could direct to shut down any premise such as a resort, club or an entertainment place if it was frequented by foreigners who are "undesirable", involved in crime or members of an unlawful group, the new Rules add "illegal migrant" to the list too.

The Rules define the role of an "immigration officer", who will be officers provided by the Intelligence Bureau.

What does the Immigration and Foreigners Order, 2025 entail?

Foreigners Tribunals (FT), so far unique to Assam, have been given the powers of a first class judicial magistrate. It paves the way to send a person to a detention or a holding centre if he or she fails to produce any proof that they are "not a foreigner". The 2025 Order that replaces the Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 1964 empowers FTs to issue arrest warrants if an individual whose nationality has been contested fails to appear in person.

According to Assam's Home Department, there were 11 Illegal Migrant Determination Tribunals (IMDT) in the State which were converted to tribunals after the Supreme Court scrapped the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 in 2005. A total of 100 FTs is currently operational in Assam. The number of FTs were enhanced after the National Register of Citizens (NRC) was published in 2019 in Assam on the orders of the top court. The NRC, again unique to Assam, excluded 19 lakh out of 3.29 crore applicants and FTs were to give adequate opportunity to those excluded to present their case. The State government has challenged the NRC in its current form and the final register is yet to be printed. Those excluded are yet to be provided with rejection slips.

Earlier, the FTs could have unspecified number of members, now the number of members has been capped at three, and the *ex-parte* orders can be set aside if the appellant files the review within 30 days. FTs are functional only in Assam. In other States, an illegal migrant is produced before a local court.

The order also legally allows border guarding forces or the coast guard to prevent illegal migrants attempting to enter into India by sending them back after capturing their biometric information and available demographic details on the designated portal of the Central Government. The Border Security Force (BSF) and the Assam Rifles (AR) posted along the Bangladesh and Myanmar borders had been practising this through executive orders of the MHA – now, it has been stipulated under law.

What is the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025?

The Order exempts Nepalese, Bhutanese and Tibetans from the provisions of the Act. It has, however, added two other categories. Registered Sri Lankan Tamil nationals who have taken shelter in India up to January 9, 2015 have been exempted from the provisions of sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) of Section 3 (requirement of passport or other travel document or visa) of the 2025 Act. The notification also exempts undocumented members of six minority communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan from penal provisions and deportation if they entered India without passports or visas, or with expired travel documents, before December 31, 2024. MHA officials clarified that while minorities from the three countries could apply for long-term visas (LTVs), a precursor to citizenship, this is not applicable for Sri Lankan Tamils.

PROFILES

Death of a culture crusader

Charlie Kirk

The American right-wing activist, who was killed in Utah on September 10, had promoted conservatism in a Trumpist avatar, creating a heady cocktail of MAGA populism and Christian nationalism that he showcased through public debates with campus liberals

G. Sampath

Charles James Kirk, 31, a high-profile conservative activist who was an ally of Donald Trump, was shot dead during a university event in Utah on September 10. The suspected shooter, identified as Tyler Robinson, 22, has been taken into custody.

Although Kirk has never held an official position in either the government or in the Republican Party, his killing has reverberated beyond the U.S. Calling him a "giant of his generation", Mr. Trump announced that Kirk would posthumously be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom – the country's highest civilian honour. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes, praised him as a "lion-hearted friend of Israel", who "stood tall for Judaeo-Christian civilisation". Luminaries of Europe's far-right, from Alice Weidel of Germany's neo-Nazi Alternative for Germany (AfD) to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Jordan Bardella of France's National Rally have lionised Kirk, describing him as a champion of free speech and liberty.

It is unusual for the passing of a political organiser little known outside the U.S. to trigger such an outpouring of tributes from across the Western world. What made Kirk so special?

Political entrepreneur

At the time of his death, Kirk's net worth was $12 million. His journey to the summit of wealth and power has many parallels with the stereotypical journeys of Silicon Valley tycoons, starting with the trope of quitting college to set up their own outfit. Kirk was a political entrepreneur, and a genius at raising money, especially from ageing Conservatives who instantly took a shine to him.

He was raised in Prospect Heights, Illinois, and his father was an architect whose firm designed the Trump Tower in New York. His mother was a mental health counsellor. In high school, he spent his lunch breaks listening to the talk radio host Rush Limbaugh. Hypnotised by the right-wing commentator, he dreamed of emulating him. In addition to Mr. Limbaugh's anti-feminism and anti-environmentalism, he also embraced Conservative author Christopher Caldwell's notion that the Civil Rights Act upended the Constitution by instituting a regime of racial preference. To these, he added a layer of Biblical obscurantism that added a Christian nationalist 'finish' to his political ideas.

In April 2012, Kirk wrote an essay for *Breitbart News*, the influential far-right website, alleging "liberal bias" in high school economics textbooks. It earned him an appearance on *Fox News* which, in turn, fetched him an audience with Tea Party activist Bill Montgomery, a man half a century his senior. Mr. Montgomery, and subsequently, conservative investment manager Foster Friess, 81, became Kirk's early donors and mentors.

In July 2012, at the age of 18, Kirk co-founded Turning Point USA, a non-profit focused on advocating conservative politics on college and university campuses. This was a field dominated by the likes of Young America's Foundation and Young Americans for Liberty, whose primary mode of advocacy was to get celebrated right-wing provocateurs to give talks on campus. Kirk, according to the *New York Times* journalist Robert Draper, took the game to another level – by training and funding student-government candidates, acting "as a kind of PAC for youngsters". He also set up the notorious 'Professor Watchlist', which sought to red flag academics who espoused views contrary to Turning Point's, especially on LGBTQ persons and race. Scholars on the watch list were subjected to relentless attacks by right-wing trolls who also pressured their employers to fire them.

On university campuses where liberal progressives were part of the establishment, Kirk presented conservative politics as a 'cool' space for youthful rebellion, particularly among youngsters who saw themselves as non-ideological. At the same time, he promoted conservatism in a Trumpist avatar, creating a heady cocktail of MAGA populism and Christian nationalism which he showcased through public debates with campus liberals.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

Kirk's penchant for these 'open debates' is often invoked by those who present him as a champion of free speech. But these were less 'debates' and more performative spectacles where oppositional voices were a structural requirement – they were needed for Kirk to put on an exhibition of verbal combat whose terms he controlled. He recorded these exchanges and posted them on social media where they went viral.

As Kirk flew from campus to campus on a private jet sponsored by his donors, his growing mass of young supporters helped him raise more funds for Turning Point. Kirk leveraged his youth base and access to old conservative donors to obtain access to the higher levels of the Republican Party. Once he had impressed Donald Trump Jr. by streamlining his social media strategy, it was a matter of time before he caught the eye of the senior Trump, who anointed him as the 'youth guy' of the GOP.

There is no doubt Kirk was instrumental in delivering the youth vote to the Trump campaign. It is a direct outcome of his sustained engagement with college students through Turning Point USA, which quickly amassed 250,000 members and chapters in over 850 colleges. In addition to his college tours, Kirk used his podcasts, TV appearances, and high-decibel social media presence to fashion himself as a diehard Trump loyalist with a powerful yet credible voice in the MAGA ecosystem.

Popularity of polarisation

But it was a popularity of its time – forged in a polarised society through bigotry, racism, and hate speech that deepened the fault lines. In a culture that censures speaking ill of the dead, it is easy to miss the fact that Kirk was an unapologetic White supremacist who believed that the "Civil Rights Act was a mistake", that Martin Luther King Jr. "was not a good person" and that Black women "do not have the brain processing power to otherwise be taken really seriously". He believed that Palestine is not a place that exists, that Muslims planned to "conquer Europe by demographic replacement", and Jewish donors are the "number one funding mechanism" of "quasi-Marxist policies".

He described transgender people as "an abomination to God". He despised feminism, famously telling Taylor Swift, "Reject feminism. Submit to your husband. You're not in charge." He opposed empathy on principle, stating that "empathy is a made-up new-age term that does a lot of damage". On guns, Kirk's views tracked those of the National Rifle Association, as he held that it was worth "the cost of, unfortunately, some gun deaths every single year so that we can have the Second Amendment".

In the aftermath of Kirk's killing, politicians and commentators from across the political spectrum have bemoaned the rise of 'political violence' in America. Sadly, Kirk's most ardent followers are the least likely to acknowledge that the fires lit by political hate speech demonising the 'other' may one day consume the self too.

THE GIST

- In high school, Charlie Kirk spent his lunch breaks listening to the talk radio host Rush Limbaugh. Hypnotised by the right-wing commentator, he dreamed of emulating him
- In addition to Limbaugh's anti-feminism and anti-environmentalism, Kirk also embraced Conservative author Christopher Caldwell's notion that the Civil Rights Act upended the Constitution by instituting a regime of racial preference
- To these, Kirk added a layer of Biblical obscurantism that added a Christian nationalist 'finish' to his political ideas

From the bench to the helm

Sushila Karki

The former Chief Justice, who has become Nepal's first woman PM, has to restore order and public faith in the system and hold free and fair elections, bringing back the democratic process

Sanjeev Satgainya

In 2008, Nepal declared itself a federal democratic republic. The 2015 Constitution formalised it. But who would have thought, on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the Constitution, the Himalayan nation of 30 million people would be picking its Prime Minister at the Army Headquarters?

After Nepal's youth-led protests against misrule and corruption led to the fall of the K.P. Sharma Oli government last week, the Army stepped in to maintain law and order, with Army chief Gen. Ashok Sigdel appointed as the chief negotiator. When youth campaigners, largely dubbed as Gen Z, proposed the name of Sushila Karki, Gen. Sigdel facilitated the process to appoint her as the head of the new government. Ms. Karki, the first woman Chief Justice of Nepal, is now the country's first woman Prime Minister.

Born on June 7, 1952, in Biratnagar, some 380 km southeast of Kathmandu, she holds a Master's degree in political science from Banaras Hindu University, and a law degree from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu.

She married Durga Subedi, who was then a leader of the Nepali Congress. A 1973 plane hijack to raise funds for the Nepali Congress was reportedly masterminded by Mr. Subedi.

ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Those who have worked with her and known her personally say Ms. Karki has maintained probity throughout her career. Her anti-corruption stand has been exemplary.

She began her career in law in 1979 and became a senior advocate in 2007. Two years later, she was appointed a Supreme Court judge.

After serving as Acting Chief Justice from April 13 to July 10, 2016, she was appointed Chief Justice on July 11. She retired on June 7, 2017. Her refusal to bow to political pressure earned her a reputation as a woman of mettle, while also inviting an impeachment motion by the Nepali Congress and the CPN (Maoist Centre). The motion was later withdrawn after the Supreme Court barred further proceedings.

Balram K.C., a former Supreme Court judge, says there could not have been any better person to lead the country at this time. "The Gen Z campaigners, whose entire campaign was against corruption, are right to back someone who always championed clean and transparent governance," he said. Since her retirement, Ms. Karki has remained active in public forums on various judicial and social issues, including anti-corruption efforts.

She rose to public prominence as a judge in 2012 when she convicted Nepali Congress leader J.P. Gupta in a corruption case while he was still serving as Minister of Information and Communications. In yet another landmark ruling, she directed the government to investigate an Army official in the rape and murder of Maina Sunar.

Lok Raj Baral, a professor and former Ambassador of Nepal to India, says his acquaintance with Ms. Karki goes back a long way and he has always been impressed by her no-nonsense personality. "She speaks her mind and refuses to compromise," Mr. Baral said. "It's her integrity that gives her the strength."

That is not to say she is without controversy.

She has faced allegations of favouring political figures in judicial appointments and of lacking impartiality in some decisions. In 2013, when then-Chief Justice Khil Raj Regmi was picked by Nepal's political parties to lead an interim government to oversee elections to the Constituent Assembly, Ms. Karki and then-Acting Chief Justice Kalyan Shrestha had argued that Justice Regmi's dual role was against the spirit of the Interim Constitution.

Immediately after assuming office on Friday night, Ms. Karki, as the Prime Minister, recommended dissolution of Parliament and declared elections for March 5, 2026.

As Ms. Karki is set to form a Cabinet, immense challenges lie ahead – she has to launch an independent probe into the September 8 violence in which 19 young people were killed, and a criminal investigation into September 9 arson and vandalism, restoring confidence among the Nepali people.

The biggest task on her shoulders is to conduct free and fair elections to restore the democratic and constitutional process and give back Parliament its inherent right to pick the Prime Minister.

Macron's lieutenant

Sébastien Lecornu

France's President has chosen his long-time ally to lead the government and win the support of a fractious Parliament where no party has a majority

Smriti S.

"We will succeed... because nothing is impossible," said Sébastien Lecornu as he gave his maiden speech as France's Prime Minister at his handover ceremony in Paris on September 9. He was appointed Premier by President Emmanuel Macron in less than 24 hours after the fall of François Bayrou's government. Mr. Lecornu, 39, is now the country's fifth Prime Minister in under two years.

Born on June 11, 1986 in Eaubonne, Val-d'Oise, Sébastien Lecornu is the son of an aeronautics factory technician and a medical secretary. His modest background, rooted in the small town of Vernon in Normandy, shaped his political outlook. "Unfortunately, I was born old," he once joked, a self-effacing remark that hinted at both his receding hairline and the weight of early responsibilities. Politics, he says, was always present. "I never imagined myself holding government office so early," Mr. Lecornu said.

Mr. Lecornu recalls the influence of his maternal grandfather, a decorated member of the anti-Nazi Resistance in Calvados during the Second World War, as an inspiration in his political journey.

By his late teens, Mr. Lecornu had already entered politics. At 19, he became a parliamentary attaché; at 22, an adviser to Bruno Le Maire, then a rising figure in the French right. At 28, he was elected Mayor of Vernon. By 2020, he had secured a Senate seat for Normandy. Alongside this steady rise, Mr. Lecornu maintained a dual identity: a reserve colonel in the National Gendarmerie (the military police) and a Frenchman fascinated by military history, a passion that would later define his role as Defence Minister.

Strategic autonomy

Caution and discretion are the two keys to his longevity in government. A member of President Macron's centrist Renaissance party, Mr. Lecornu has been a loyal ally since the start of the President's first term, serving in every cabinet since 2017. He began as Secretary of State for Ecology, moved to overseas affairs, and in 2022 was handed the defence portfolio. As Defence Minister, Mr. Lecornu advocated Mr. Macron's vision of European strategic autonomy. Since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Mr. Lecornu has also become the face of France's military build-up. In 2023, he shepherded the parliamentary vote on a new military planning law that foresaw €413 billion in defence spending from 2024 to 2030. He has cultivated ties across the political spectrum, earning a reputation as "the king of political flirting". "He talks to everyone – from the hard-left France Unbowed party to the RN, (the far-right National Rally)," François Cormier-Bouligeon, a Renaissance lawmaker, told *Le Monde*.

However, Mr. Lecornu's career has not been without controversies. As Overseas Minister, he oversaw the 2021 referendum in New Caledonia, which was boycotted by independence groups, undermining the vote's legitimacy. He also struggled to prevent his home region of Eure from swinging heavily toward Marine Le Pen's National Rally in both the 2022 presidential and 2024 legislative elections.

Green Party leader Marine Tondelier once condemned him as "homophobic", citing the past comments he made, opposing same-sex marriage and adoption rights. Mr. Lecornu later softened his stance, acknowledging that he had "come a long way".

Mr. Lecornu studied at the private Catholic lycée Saint-Adjutor in Vernon before beginning a law degree in Paris. He enrolled in a master's programme in public law, but did not complete it. Today, he lives, accompanied by his dog, Tiga, who is known to roam the corridors of the Armed Forces Ministry.

If Mr. Lecornu has sometimes been accused of playing the courtier to Mr. Macron, his loyalty has been rewarded. He has been part of the "Élysée boys' club" – the President's tight inner circle – and often accompanied Mr. Macron abroad.

Now, as Prime Minister, Mr. Lecornu faces the dual challenge of bridging the gap, as he puts it, "between real life and the political situation," while also securing enough support in a divided Parliament, where no party has a majority, to pass a crucial budget, which is to be signed off by December 31.

DOHA

Arab, Muslim leaders to meet in Qatar to denounce Israeli attack

AP

Qatar said on Saturday it will host a summit of Arab and Muslim leaders on Monday to condemn Israel's strike in Doha that killed Hamas officials and a Qatari officer. Leaders including Iran's President and Iraq's Prime Minister will attend, signalling unified rejection of Israeli aggression. AFP

SIDON

Palestinian factions in Lebanon camp hand over weapons in deal

AP

Palestinian factions in Lebanon's Ein el-Hilweh and Beddawi refugee camps handed over truckloads of weapons to authorities on Saturday. The spokesperson for the Palestinian National Security Forces in Lebanon said the weapons belonged to factions that are part of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. AP

MOSCOW

Russia claims another village in Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk

AFP

Russia on Saturday said it had captured a new village in Ukraine's central Dnipropetrovsk region, which Moscow's forces say they reached at the beginning of July. The Defence Ministry said its troops had seized the village of Novomykolaivka near the border with the Donetsk region — the epicentre of fighting on the front. AFP

SEOUL

North Korea to boost nuclear arsenal, conventional military

AFP

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said Pyongyang will unveil a new policy advancing both nuclear and conventional military power at an upcoming ruling party meeting, state media said on Saturday. He stressed modernising forces amid expanding cooperation with Russia, including military technology and battlefield support. AFP

U.S. asks G7 to impose tariffs on countries purchasing Russian oil

Only 'unified efforts' that cut off funding to Moscow's war machine can apply sufficient pressure, says U.S.; Trump asks NATO allies to 'completely halt' purchases of Russian oil, and to impose tariffs of 50 to 100% on China as a way to help end the war

Press Trust of India
Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

The U.S. has asked G7 members to impose tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia, asserting that only "unified efforts" that cut off funding to Moscow's war machine at source can apply sufficient pressure to end "the senseless killing".

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and the U.S. Trade Representative, Jamieson Greer, were on a call with G7 Finance Ministers on Friday when they reiterated President Donald Trump's call to the bloc's partners about imposing tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia.

Applying pressure: Donald Trump with Scott Bessent, middle, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington. AFP

G7 is an intergovernmental bloc of rich, industrialised countries comprising the U.S., Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the U.K.

Meanwhile, Mr. Trump said he was ready to sanction Moscow, but on the condition that all NATO allies agree to completely halt purchases of Russian oil and implement their own sanctions.

He also suggested members of the transatlantic alliance consider slapping tariffs of 50% to 100% on China as a way to help end Russia's war in Ukraine. "I am ready to do major Sanctions on Russia when all NATO Nations have agreed, and started, to do the same thing, and when all NATO Nations STOP BUYING OIL FROM RUSSIA," Mr. Trump said in a social media post, which he described as a letter to all NATO nations and the world.

The U.S. has imposed 50% tariffs on Indian goods, including a 25% additional duty for India's purchase of Russian crude oil. Mr. Trump branded NATO nations' purchase of Russian oil "shocking" and said it weakens their bargaining power over Moscow. "Anyway, I am ready to 'go' when you are. Just say when?"

"I believe that (NATO sanctions on Russia), plus NATO, as a group, placing 50% to 100% TARIFFS ON CHINA, to be fully withdrawn after the WAR with Russia and Ukraine is ended, will also be of great help in ENDING this deadly, but RIDICULOUS, WAR," Mr. Trump added.

Myanmar air strike kills at least 19 school students

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

Debris after an army air strike hit two private schools in Thayet Thapin village in Rakhine State of Myanmar on Friday. AP

A Myanmar ethnic minority armed group said on Saturday that a junta air strike killed at least 19 students, including children, in western Rakhine state.

The Arakan Army (AA) is engaged in a fierce fight with Myanmar's ruling military for control of Rakhine, where it has seized swaths of territory in the past year.

The Rakhine conflict is one element of the bloody chaos that has engulfed Myanmar since the military ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government in a 2021 coup, sparking a widespread armed uprising.

The AA posted a statement on Telegram on Saturday saying the attack on two private high schools in Kyauktaw township happened just after midnight Friday, killing 19 students between the ages of 15 and 21 and wounding 22 more.

"We feel as sad as the victims' families for the death of the innocent students," the statement said. It blamed the junta for the strike.

Local media outlet *Myanmar Now* reported that a junta warplane dropped two 226 kg bombs on a high school as students slept.

In a statement, UNICEF condemned the "brutal attack", which it said "adds to a pattern of increasingly devastating violence in Rakhine State, with children and families paying the ultimate price".

Clashes near Afghan border kill 12 soldiers, 35 militants: Pak. Army

Associated Press
PESHAWAR

Pakistani security forces raided two hideouts of the Pakistani Taliban near the Afghan border in the past two days, triggering fierce clashes that killed 12 soldiers and 35 militants, the military said on Saturday.

The death toll underscores the struggles Pakistan faces as it tries to rein in resurging militant groups. The military said 22 militants were killed in the first raid in Bajaur, a district in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Thirteen more were killed in a separate operation in South Waziristan district, the military said. The statement said that the 12 soldiers, "having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced martyrdom" in South Waziristan.

The military urges Taliban regime in Kabul 'to deny use of its soil for terrorist activities against Pak.'

The militants are using Afghan soil to stage attacks in Pakistan, the military said, urging the Taliban regime in Kabul "to uphold its responsibilities and deny use of its soil for terrorist activities against Pakistan".

Israel army ramps up strikes on Gaza City, kills at least 32 people

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

A barrage of air strikes killed at least 32 people across Gaza City as Israel ramps up its offensive there and urges Palestinians to evacuate, medical staff reported on Saturday. The dead included 12 children, according to the morgue in Shifa Hospital, where the bodies were brought.

Israel in recent day has intensified strikes across Gaza City, destroying multiple high-rise buildings and accusing Hamas of putting surveillance equipment in them.

On Saturday, the army said it struck another high-rise used by Hamas in the area of Gaza City. It has ordered residents to leave, part of an offensive aimed at taking over the largest Palestinian city, which it says is Hamas's last stronghold. Hundreds of thousands of people remain there, struggling under conditions of famine.

One of the strikes overnight and into early morning Saturday hit a house in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood, killing a family of 10, including a mother and her three children, said health officials.

In a message on social media on Saturday, Israel's army told the remaining Palestinians in Gaza City to leave "immediately".

'Unconstitutional', 'arbitrary': Nepal parties slam House dissolution move

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

Nepal's major political parties and apex lawyers' body have strongly criticised the President's decision to dissolve Parliament, describing the move as "unconstitutional", "arbitrary" and a serious blow to democracy.

The criticism followed Friday's recommendation by the first Cabinet meeting chaired by interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki to dissolve the House of Representatives, a proposal that President Ram Chandra Poudel promptly approved.

Political parties across the spectrum slammed the dissolution move.

Taking charge: Sushila Karki visits victims injured in clashes with security personnel in Kathmandu on Saturday. AFP

Disapproving of the move, Nepali Congress (NC), the largest political party of the country, warned that any action violating the Constitution would be unacceptable.

The Central Executive Committee meeting of the Nepali Congress held on Saturday concluded that the dissolution of the Parliament has "jeopardised the democratic achievements" of the country, *My-Republica* news portal reported.

"This move to dissolve Parliament is against the spirit of our Constitution and the interpretation of the Supreme Court. It is absolutely unconstitutional," the NC said in a statement.

NC general secretary Bishwa Prakash Sharma said any breach of the Constitution raises serious questions.

CPN-UML general secretary Shankar Pokharel described the move as "ironically concerning".

The CPN (Maoist Centre) also expressed serious disagreement with the decision to dissolve the House of Representatives, asserting that the decision of dissolution went against the country's constitutional framework.

SETTLED XI

India unlikely to make changes for the big game: ten Doeschate

AFP

India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate said that changes to the playing XI are unlikely for the big game against Pakistan. "We are unlikely to make changes. The wickets have played a bit differently compared to the Champions Trophy, but the combination we had for the first game (against the UAE) was the right set-up," he said.

UPBEAT

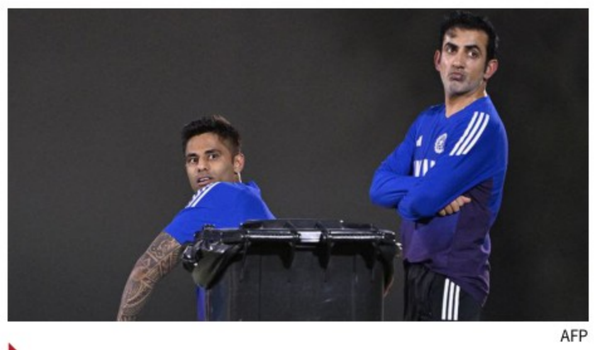
We are good enough to beat any team, says Salman Agha

AFP

We have been playing good cricket in the last two-three months and we just have to play good cricket. If we can execute our plans for a long enough period, we are good enough to beat any team — Pakistan captain Salman Agha on whether the emphatic win over Oman will give his side the momentum going into the India game.

PREPPED UP

India mindful of Pakistan's change in approach, says ten Doeschate



AFP

With Pakistan having moved on from Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan in the T20 format, India expects a more aggressive approach from its rival. "Pakistan has also started to come to terms with how it wants to play. Their players want to go a different way. We have done lots of homework," Ryan ten Doeschate said.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Enjoy the pressure and show discipline: Akram advises Pakistan

AFP

Just enjoy the moment if you win the game. Pressure will come, enjoy that and show discipline because this is just a game. Pakistan have a chance as they won a tri-series last week. They should not think that we just need to win against India, think of winning the Asia Cup — Pakistan legend Wasim Akram.

Time to put emotions behind, focus on the game: ten Doeschate

Vivek Krishnan
DUBAI

Gill... up for the challenge. AFP

On the eve of India's Asia Cup clash against Pakistan at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday, assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate admitted that the team was uncertain about the fate of the continental event after the military conflict between the neighbours in May.

But now that the encounter against Pakistan is just a few hours away, the message in Saturday's team meeting was to put the emotions behind and approach an important match just as they would do otherwise.

"It is a very sensitive issue. I have no doubt the players share the compassion and feeling of the vast majority of the Indian public," ten Doeschate told reporters on Saturday. "The Asia Cup was in limbo for a long period of time and we were just waiting. We didn't think we were going to be coming at one stage.

"But obviously, you know what the government stance is. Now the team, particularly the players, has to put its sentiments and emotions behind. It's actually something we addressed in the team meeting today."

When reminded about the instances when the sporting arena was used to register a protest, ten Doeschate was tactful in his response.

"I guess the other side of the argument is that you separate sports from politics and people have got different opinions on that. Hopefully the way we play can represent how we feel about the country," the Dutchman said.

In May, coach Gautam Gambhir had said, in his personal opinion, India should not play Pakistan even at neutral venues.

But the Indian government has since stated that it will not take a hardline stance in multi-nation events.

"The waiting period of knowing whether this was going to happen was probably the most frustrating part. Gauti's message has just been very professional about not worrying about things that are not in our control," said the 45-year-old.

Today's match

India vs Pakistan

Dubai, 8 p.m. IST

LIVE ON SONY SPORTS TEN 5 (SD & HD) & LIV

India starts overwhelming favourite in marquee clash

Onus on Pakistan to infuse life into the famed rivalry; significant to the outcome will be the approach of the batting units as well as the performance of the potent spin attacks

Vivek Krishnan
DUBAI

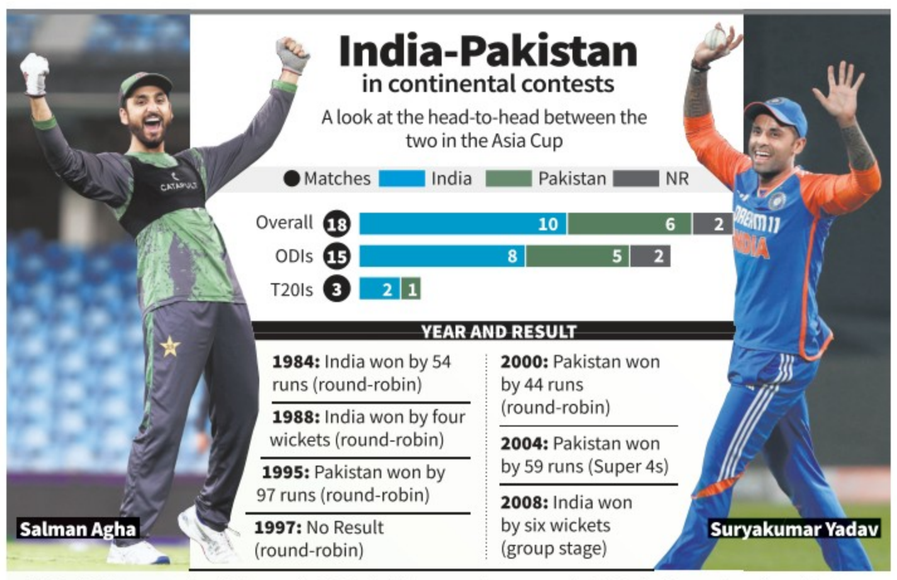
Countdowns to cricketing contests between India and Pakistan encompass a few constants. In the days and weeks leading up as the excitement swells to fever pitch, the rhetoric is ratcheted up. Raucous debates transpire on television and social media. Tickets, often at unreasonably high prices, sell like hot cakes. Individual match-ups are dissected. Jangling nerves suffuse the air.

By most estimates, however, the build-up to Sunday's contest in Group-A of the Asia Cup hasn't been quite as boisterous. Nothing is more revealing of the subdued surroundings than tickets still being up for grabs more than two weeks after they first went up for sale.

The ostensible reason for a change in mood is the further deterioration of relations brought about by a terror attack in Jammu & Kashmir's Pahalgam in April. It has enraged Indian sentiments and prompted calls from some sections for an outright boycott of Pakistan.

Aside from geopolitical realities, the fact that clashes between the neighbours have decisively swung towards the blue corner is a factor. In 13 contests in the slam-bang affair, India has prevailed nine times. Since 2015, India has won eight of 10 face-offs in the 50-over genre too with one match ending in no-result.

With the two teams proceeding in contrasting directions in terms of skill, resources and results, the lustre of this epic rivalry has eroded to a degree.



While India boasts of some of the biggest stars in the game right now, Salman Agha is leading a largely unheralded Pakistani bunch that is very much figuring its way through the vagaries of the shortest format.

Far from a battle of equals this may hence be, but it doesn't prevent Pakistan from springing a surprise in a format where all it takes is a moment of magic or madness for tables to turn. Imprinted in the memory bank for Pakistan will be its 10-wicket triumph in the 2021 T20 World Cup at the same venue, when Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan stayed unbeaten and steered their side home in a run chase of 152. For India, of course, it was just a blip.

On Sunday, the encounter may boil down to the performance of the spin attacks. In their opening fixtures of the continental showpiece, they came to the fore.

In India's dismantling of the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday, Kuldeep Yadav struck four times while Varun Chakaravarthy and Axar Patel chipped in with a wicket each. Similarly, Pakistan's successful defence of 160 against Oman on Friday night was shaped by spinners Mohammad Nawaz, Abrar Ahmed, Sufiyan Muqeem and Saim Ayub sharing six scalps.

Significant to the outcome will also be the approach of the batting units. In India's case, the young batters allow their attacking instincts to take over without fear of retribution. Since the omissions of Babar and Rizwan from the T20I team, Pakistan has hoped to chart a similar path.

For the enthusiasm around this contest to pick up ahead of further meetings, the very best of these facets will have to be on display.

The teams (from):

India: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Varun Chakaravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav, Sanju Samson (wk), Harshit Rana, Rinku Singh.

Pakistan: Salman Agha (Capt.), Fakhar Zaman, Hasan Nawaz, Mohammad Haris (wk), Sahibzada Farhan, Saim Ayub, Faheem Ashraf, Hussain Talat, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Nawaz, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Mohammad Wasim, Salman Mirza, Shaheen Afridi, Sufiyan Muqeem.

Ready to rumble: Saim is looking forward to his maiden encounter with India. AFP

We aim to play fearless cricket: Saim

Vivek Krishnan
DUBAI

Pakistan opener Saim Ayub exudes an air of confidence while wielding his willow.

Leaning back in his chair after a mixed display against Oman that saw him dismissed for a duck and claim two wickets, he embodied that quality even in his exchange with the media as he looked ahead to the big game against India in the Asia Cup on Sunday evening.

Yet to lock horns with the arch-rival, Saim perhaps doesn't have any of the psychological scars of recent battles between the two nations.

When Pakistan slumped to a six-run defeat in a chase of 120 at last year's T20 World Cup, the 23-year-old was a spectator from the bench. He claimed to have no recollections of that defeat.

"The message of our team management for the last 3-4 months is to learn from the past and move forward. We don't want to remember the past and don't want to focus too much on the future," he said.

In light of Pakistan's renewed focus towards playing a more fearless brand of cricket, can the players walk the talk against a pedigreed opponent like India? "Our aim is to play fearless cricket against everyone," Saim declared.

Powerful knock: Nissanka smashed 50 off 34 balls studded with six boundaries and a maximum. AFP

Sri Lanka opens campaign with a dominating win

Press Trust of India
ABU DHABI

Sri Lanka opened its Asia Cup campaign with a six-wicket win over Bangladesh in a Group-B match, here on Saturday.

Bangladesh scored a below-par 139 for five, which was chased down by Sri Lanka in 14.4 overs.

Nissanka smashed 50 off 34 balls and shared a 95-run partnership for the second wicket with Kamil Mishara who made an unbeaten 46 off 32 balls.

Earlier, after an awful start, Shamim Hossain and Jaker Ali put on an 86-run stand for the sixth wicket and rescued Bangladesh.

The scores: Bangladesh 139/5 in 20 overs (Litton Das 28, Jaker Ali 41 n.o, Shamim Hossain 42 n.o., Wanindu Hasaranga 2/25) lost to Sri Lanka 140/4 in 14.4 overs (Pathum Nissanka 50, Kamil Mishara 46 n.o., Mahedi Hasan 2/29). **Toss:** Sri Lanka; **PoM:** Mishara.

Nagal rises to the occasion for India

DAVIS CUP

Sports Bureau

Sumit Nagal sealed the issue for India as he beat the 18-year-old Henry Bernet 6-1, 6-3 in the fourth rubber for a 3-1 victory over Switzerland in the Davis Cup World Group-1 tie in Biel on Saturday.

Nagal had closed the first day for India at 2-0 by winning his singles after Dhakshineswar Suresh had given a dream start by beating the Swiss No. 1 Jerome Kym in straight sets.

The 28-year-old was pleased to ensure victory for the team.

India had lost the tough doubles match as the Swiss pair of Jakub Paul and Dominic Stricker beat Sriram Balaji and Rithvik Bollipalli in a gripping contest 6-7(3), 6-4, 7-5. That made it lively for the fans in the indoor arena.

Bundle of joy: Nagal scored the decisive victory. AP

The Swiss replaced their No.1 Kym with the young lad who had won the Australian Open junior singles title this year.

However, by the time the youngster settled to play his fluent game, hitting single-handed backhands with a flourish, and running like a rabbit all over the court, Nagal had tightened his grip on the match.

"It has been a while for us to win in Europe. We all pushed each other a lot in the team. We are happy with the win. The doubles was tough. The level was very high. When I had to play the young guy, I knew he was good.

"Young ones are always tricky as you don't know how they play. I was happy with the way I played the match," said Nagal.

The Indian pair could have won the doubles but at 4-4 in the second set, after having won the first, Sriram Balaji and Bollipalli failed to convert three breakpoints in the ninth game on Paul's serve.

Quite significantly, debutant Bollipalli dropped serve at love in the 10th game.

The results: India bt Switzerland 3-1 (Sriram Balaji & Rithvik Bollipalli lost to Jakub Paul & Dominik Stricker 7-6(3), 4-6, 5-7; Sumit Nagal bt Henry Bernet 6-1, 6-3).

SNAPSHOTS

All to play for: If India can upset China in the final it will secure a berth in next year's World Cup. X@THEHOCKEYINDIA

India draws with Japan, faces China in final

HANGZHOU: Indian women's hockey team qualified for the Asia Cup final after playing out a 1-1 draw against Japan as host China beat Korea 1-0 in the last match of the Super 4 stage here on Saturday.

India will face China in the summit clash on Sunday, and the winning team will qualify for next year's World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands.

After the 1-1 draw against Japan, India had to wait for the result of the match between Korea and China.

The result: India 1 (Beauty Dung Dung 7) drew with Japan 1 (Kobayakawa Shiho 58).

Zubimendi's double propels Arsenal past Forest

LONDON: Martin Zubimendi's double and Viktor Gyokeres' tap-in gave Arsenal a comfortable 3-0 home victory over Nottingham Forest in the Premier League on Saturday, condemning Ange Postecoglou to defeat in his first game as Forest boss.

Kylian Mbappe scored one goal and set up another to lead 10-man Real Madrid to a 2-1 victory at Real Sociedad in LaLiga.

The results: Premier League: Arsenal 3 (Zubimendi 32, 79, Gyokeres 46) bt Nottingham Forest 0; Bournemouth 2 (Scott 18, Semenyo 61-pen) bt Brighton 1 (Mitoma 48); Crystal Palace 0 drew with Sunderland 0; Everton 0 drew with Aston Villa 0; Fulham 1 (Gudmundsson 90+4) bt Leeds 0; Newcastle 1 (Woltemade 29) bt Wolves 0; West Ham 0 lost to Tottenham 3 (Sarr 47, Bergvall 57, Van de Ven 64).

LaLiga: Getafe 2 (Martin 45+4, Mayoral 45+9) bt Real Oviedo 0; Real Sociedad 1 (Oyarzabal 56-pen) lost to Real Madrid 2 (Mbappe 12, Guler 44).

Serie A: Cagliari 2 (Mina 33, Felici 77) bt Parma 0; Juventus 4 (Kelly 14, Yildiz 38, K. Thuram 83, Adzic 90+1) bt Inter Milan 3 (Calhanoglu 30, 65, M. Thuram 76).

Bundesliga: Freiburg 3 (Matanovic 81, 90+2-pen, Scherhant 86) bt Stuttgart 1 (Demirovic 20); Mainz 0 lost to RB Leipzig 1 (Bakayoko 40); Heidenheim 0 lost to Borussia Dortmund 2 (Guirassy 33, Beier 45+6).

INBRIEF

Harbhajan and Ganguly to attend BCCI AGM

Harbhajan Singh, *in pic*, is set to attend the BCCI AGM for the first time, while Sourav Ganguly will return to the AGM after three years. The duo's name was confirmed in the draft electoral list for the BCCI election, which will be held during the AGM on September 28. Harbhajan, the 103-Test veteran and a Rajya Sabha MP, has been nominated by the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA). Ganguly, set to return as the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) president next week, will be the CAB representative at the AGM.

Indian team jersey sponsor to be finalised soon: Shukla

BCCI vice-president Rajiv Shukla said on Saturday that the new jersey sponsor of the Indian cricket team will be finalised in the next two to three weeks, with bids scheduled to close on September 16. Team India is without a shirt sponsor in the ongoing Asia Cup. The BCCI has since floated a new tender that bars companies involved in real-money gaming, betting, cryptocurrency.

Disappointing day for Indians at World wrestling

Indian freestyle wrestlers gave below par performances as none of the four in action could win a bout on the opening day of the World championships in Zagreb on Saturday. Fifth-seeded Udit (61kg), starting from pre-quarterfinals stage, lost to Taiyrbek Zhumashbek Uulu 0-2. Rohit (70kg) came up short against Uzbek Begijon Kuldashev 4-5, Mukul Dahiya (86kg) was no match for USA's Zahid Valencia and lost 0-10 and Rajat Ruhal (125kg) lost by a 2-5 margin against Hungary's Vlagyiszlav.

Minakshi marches into women's 48kg final

Minakshi Hooda marched into the women's 48kg summit clash at the World boxing championships in Liverpool on Saturday. Minakshi beat Altantsetseg Lutsaikhan of Mongolia in a last-four bout and became the third Indian woman to make it to a gold medal match.

Pink Panthers cruise past UP Yoddhas

Jaipur Pink Panthers registered its first win at home, delivering a commanding performance to beat UP Yoddhas 41-29 in a PKL 12 match in Jaipur on Saturday. For the two-time champions, Nitin Kumar registered another Super 10.

Egyptian Open: Abhay Singh claims career-best victory

India's Abhay Singh notched up the biggest win of his career with a straight-game victory over World No. 17 Gregoire Marche of France in the opening round of the Egyptian Open, a $366,000 PSA World Tour Diamond event, in Giza. He prevailed 12-10, 11-9, 11-3.

Nihal loses to Firouzja; Arjun beats Sevian

Indian GM Nihal Sarin's hopes of qualifying for the Candidates tournament suffered a setback as he lost to Alireza Firouzja in the ninth round of the FIDE Grand Swiss in Samarkand while Arjun Erigaisi outlasted American Samuel Sevian. In the women's section, R. Vaishali drew with Yuxin Song of China to remain joint second on 6.5 points.

LIVE TELECAST

Duleep Trophy: (final), Star Sports Khel & JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.

India Women vs Australia Women: 1st ODI, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 1.30 p.m.

Serie A: DAZN, 4, 6.30, 9 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday)

LaLiga: FanCode, 5.30, 7.45, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday)

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2) & JioHotstar, 6.30 & 9 p.m.

England vs South Africa: 3rd T20I, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 p.m.

Men's Asia Cup T20: India vs Pakistan, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 p.m.

World Athletics Championships: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 4 a.m. (Monday)

Central's triumph all but certain

The side scores a mammoth 511 in its first innings as Rathod carries on to notch up a superb 194; South reaches 129 for two at the end of day three and needs another 233 runs to avoid an innings defeat

DULEEP TROPHY FINAL

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Yash Rathod added heft to his reputation as a dependable red-ball batter with a fluent 194 against South Zone in the Duleep Trophy final at the BCCI CoE Ground (1) on Saturday.

The Central Zone southpaw carried on seamlessly from his overnight score of 137. Rathod's big knock took his side to a mammoth 511, leaving South with no hope of making a comeback.

South ended the third day on 129 for two, needing 233 more runs to make Central bat again.

Rathod, a classical batter blessed with patience, timing and grace, cashed in on a listless South attack. Having made his First Class debut in 2023, Rathod has taken to the long format like fish to water. The highest run-scorer of the 2024-25 Ranji Trophy season, Rathod came close to recording his maiden double hundred.

> I had a very strong belief that I was going to get runs in the final. I even told one or two of my friends before this match that I was going to get big runs in the final
> **RATHOD**

A sharp indipper from left-arm pacer Gurjapneet Singh breached his defence, bringing an end to Rathod's eight-hour stay.

A rare failure in the semifinal lit the fire under Rathod. "I have always done well in the semifinals. But this year I did not perform in this Duleep Trophy semifinal. I had a very strong belief that I was going to get runs in the final. I even told one or two of my friends before this match that I was going to get big runs in the final. The confidence was there," the 25-year-old said.

Rathod found good company in Saransh Jain, who worked hard for his 193-ball 69. Saransh was fortunate early in his essay, when the South team did not appeal despite the ball brushing the bat on the way to the wicketkeeper Upendra Yadav.

When the replay was flashed on the big screen an over later, the bowler Ankit Sharma and Upendra cursed the stars.

Gurjapneet was the pick of the bowlers, recording figures of four for 124.

The scores:
South 149 & 129/2 in 33 overs (Mohit Kale 38, R. Smaran 37 batting) vs. Central Zone 511 in 145.1 overs (Danish Malewar 53, Rajat Patidar 101, Yash Rathod 194, Saransh Jain 69, Deepak Chahar 37, Gurjapneet Singh 4/124, Ankit Sharma 4/180).

Commendable effort: South Zone's Gurjapneet toiled hard for his four-wicket haul. K. MURALI KUMAR

Salt. GETTY IMAGES

Salt on fire as England levels series

Agence France-Presse
MANCHESTER

Phil Salt (141 n.o.) hit the highest score and quickest century by an England batter in a T20I as the host hammered South Africa by 146 runs to level the three-match series 1-1 on Friday. England's mammoth 304 for two was the first time in a T20I between two Test-playing nations a side had reached 300.

The scores: England 304/2 in 20 overs (Phil Salt 141 n.o., Jos Buttler 83, Harry Brook 41 n.o.) bt South Africa 158 in 16.1 overs (Aiden Markram 41, Bjorn Fortuin 32, Jofra Archer 3/25). **Toss:** SA; **PoM:** Salt.

Esha pips Yao to clinch gold in 10m air pistol

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Esha Singh put India on the medals table with the women's air pistol gold, as she pipped Yao Qianxun of China by 0.1 point in the World Cup in Ningbo, China, on Saturday.

Interestingly, it was a sweep of gold medals in women's air pistol this season by India, as Suruchi Phogat had won the individual gold medal in the first three World Cups.

Esha's gold medal put India joint fifth with Germany on the medals table that is headed by China with two gold, four silver and a bronze.

Superb show: Esha secured the gold with a marginal difference of 0.1 point. ISSF

The results: 10m air pistol: Women: 1. Esha Singh 242.6 (578); 2. Yao Qianxun (Chn) 242.5 (584); 3. Oh Yejin (Kor) 220.7 (584); 5. Rhythm Sangwan 179.2 (578); 25. Surbhi Rao 568; RPO: Palak Gulia 586; Sainyam 576.

25m rapid fire pistol: 1. Florian Peter (Ger) 34 (583); 2. Jean Quiquampoix (Fra) 33 (584); 3. Clement Bessaguet (Fra) 28 (584); 22. Bhavesh Shekhawat 575; 23. Pradeep Singh Shekhawat 575; 29. Mandeep Singh 562; RPO: Raajwardan Paatil 570; Gurmeet 564.

Dyf should make amends in the President Of India Gold Cup

RACING

HYDERABAD: The six-year-old Dyf, who ran second in his last outing, should make amends in the President Of India Gold Cup, the feature event of Sunday's races. There will be no false rails.

1 NARAYANPET PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 1.20 p.m.: 1. Shadow Of Light (6) Deepak 60, 2. Zuza (9) Trevor 60, 3. Double Bubble (8) Akshay K 58.5, 4. Assured Success (7) Mohit 57.5, 5. Glimmer Of Hope (1) Gaurav 56.5, 6. Smart Boy (3) A.A. Vikrant 55.5, 7. Blazing Saddle (4) Ajay K 53, 8. Lady Jane (2) Md. Ekram 52, 9. Analysis (5) G. Naresh 51.5 and 10. Amboseli (10) H.M. Akshay 51.
1. ZUZA, 2. DOUBLE BUBBLE, 3. GLIMMER OF HOPE

2 DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE CUP (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 2.00: 1. Gloria (8) Trevor 60, 2. Brilliant Lad (7) P. Sai K 57, 3. Malibu (2) Kuldeep Jr. 56.5, 4. Perception (3) Akshay K 56, 5. Federer (5) P. Ajeeth K 53, 6. Linda (4) Surya Prakash 53, 7. Only My Way (6) Afroz K 53 and 8. Crimson Rose (1) B. Nikhil 52.
1. BRILLIANT LAD, 2. GLORIA, 3. FEDERER.

3 TOTARAM'S CUP (1,600m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 2.40 (No whips race): 1. China Town (4) P. Ajeeth K 62.5, 2. Armstrong (1) Deepak 60.5, 3. True Icon (6) H.M. Akshay 60.5, 4. N R I Sport (8) B.R. Kumar 60, 5. Noble Heart (7) Kuldeep Sr. 59, 6. Shah Of Iran (5) R.N. Darshan 54.5, 7. Briar Ridge (3) B. Nikhil 52.5 and 8. Great Giver (2) Kuldeep Jr. 51.5.
1. NOBLE HEART, 2. N R I SPORT, 3. CHINA TOWN

4 ARTILLERY CUP (1,100m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II) – 3.20: 1. N R I Blaze (4) Kuldeep Sr. 56, 2. Sound Wave (6) B. Nikhil 56, 3. State Man (2) Akshay K 56, 4. City Of Moksha (3) Ajay K 54.5, 5. Faizah (5) Trevor 54.5, 6. Foxy Girl (9) H.M. Akshay 54.5, 7. Marissa (7) R.N. Darshan 54.5, 8. Quintessential (1) Ashad Asbar 54.5 and 9. Roly Poly (8) Rafique Sk. 54.5.
1. STATE MAN, 2. FAIZAH, 3. CITY OF MOKSHA

5 PRESIDENT OF INDIA GOLD CUP (Gr. II) (2,400m), 4-y-o and upward – 4.00: 1. Dyf (7) Trevor 60, 2. Ramiel (8) I. Chisty 57, 3. Truth (10) Mohit 54, 4. Pyrite (4) Kuldeep Sr. 53.5, 5. Queen Of Kings (2) A.A. Vikrant 52.5, 6. Mescalito (5) Akshay K 52, 7. Saigon (9) P. Ajeeth K 52, 8. Victor Hugo (6) Ashad Asbar 52, 9. Rise And Reign (1) P. Sai K 51.5 and 10. Star Of Night (3) B.R. Kumar 51.5.
1. DYF, 2. VICTOR HUGO, 3. RAMIEL

6 NARAYANPET PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 4.40: 1. Royal Parade (10) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Top In Class (8) Deepak 59.5, 3. Trust Me (4) H.M. Akshay 58.5, 4. Dashing Charm (9) Ashad Asbar 58, 5. Cherish The Lady (6) P. Sai K 56.5, 6. Lights On (1) Abhay Singh 56, 7. In Proposito (7) B.R. Kumar 54, 8. Don Cherie (2) Md. Ekram 51.5, 9. Golden Unicorn (11) Kuldeep Jr. 51.5, 10. Dino (3) Santosh Raj 50.5 and 11. Rani Ruckus (5) B. Nikhil 50.5.
1. CHERISH THE LADY, 2. DASHING CHARM, 3. TOP IN CLASS
Day's Best: **STATE MAN**
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. Mini Jackpot: 3, 4, 5 & 6. Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 4, 5 & 6.
Tanala: All races.

Lakshya, Satwik-Chirag enter the final

Glory beckons: Satwik and Chirag are a happy duo after entering the final. BWF

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
HONG KONG

India's Lakshya Sen entered his first major final in two years after edging out Taiwan's Chou Tien Chen in straight games, while the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also stormed into the summit clash here on Saturday.

The 23-year-old Lakshya ended a long wait for a title shot with a 23-21, 22-20 win over world No. 9 and third seed Chou in the semifinal.

The Commonwealth Games champion had last won a Super 500 tournament at Canada Open in July 2023. He also clinched a Super 300 title at the Syed Modi International in Lucknow in December.

Currently ranked world No. 20, Lakshya will face second seed Li Shi Feng of China in the final.

Earlier, the world No. 9 duo of Satwik and Chirag defeated Taiwan's Bing-Wei Lin and Chen Cheng-Kuan 21-17, 21-15 to make their first final of the season after six semifinal heartbreaks. The eighth-seeded Indians will take on China's Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang, silver medallists at the Paris Olympics.

"Finals, finally. It's been seven semifinals since China Open last year. We've been constantly playing semifinals and I think we really wanted to play a final. It's been a while," Chirag said. "The last final we played was the Thailand Open, probably in May, before the Olympics. We really wanted to do well here and we're really happy."

The results (semifinals): Men: Lakshya Sen bt T.C. Chou (Tpe) 23-21, 22-20. **Doubles:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Bing-Wei Lin & Chen Cheng Kuan (Tpe) 21-17, 21-15.

Chebet claims her maiden world title; shot-putter Crouser completes hat-trick

ATHLETICS

Agencies
TOKYO

Olympic champion and world-record holder Beatrice Chebet won a thrilling women's 10,000 metres with a late burst of pace at the World Athletics Championships on Saturday to claim her first World title.

The Kenyan sprinted clear of the leading pack on the final lap to cross the line in 30 minutes 37.61 seconds and complete the first leg of what she hopes will be a 5,000m-10,000m double in Tokyo to match her feat at last year's Paris Olympics.

Nadia Battocletti could not keep up with Chebet on the run-in but finished second in an Italian record 30:38.23 to win a silver medal to add to the one she won behind the Kenyan at last years Olympics.

Gudaf Tsegay held off Chebet's teammate Agnes Jebet Ngetich to take bronze in 30:39.65.

The United States convincingly won the 4x400m mixed relay for the third time.

Femke Bol delivered another outstanding anchor leg to give the Dutch the silver in 3:09.96. Belgium took bronze in 3:10.61.

Ryan Crouser completed an incredible shot put hat-trick to match his three Olympic golds when, having not thrown once all season before the morning heats, the American somehow found a winning 22.34-metre effort to take gold.

Sweet success: Chebet exults after clinching the 10,000m gold. AP

Indians disappoint

Indian race walkers disappointed with Sandeep Kumar and Priyanka Goswami finishing at 23rd and 24th places in the men's and women's sections respectively.

Another Indian in the fray in men's 35km race walk event, Ram Baboo was disqualified (DQ under rule TR54.7.5) after receiving his fourth red card.

In the women's 1500m race, Pooja finished a disappointing 11th in heat number two, clocking 4 minute 13.75 seconds, in a 14-athlete field

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Bengaluru FC restores salary of first-team players and staff

More than a month after holding back salaries of first-team players and staff owing to the uncertainty in the conduct of the Indian Super League, Bengaluru FC, on Saturday, announced that pay was restored and that all pending payments were completed in full. With the joint roadmap presented by FSDL – organisers of ISL – and the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to the Supreme Court of India proposing a start for the 2025-26 football season with the Super Cup in October followed by the ISL, BFC also stated that the first team will begin pre-season training from Tuesday.

RWFSA has it easy

RWFSA thrashed Karnataka Forest Department 6-1 in the DS Murthy Memorial Hockey tournament on Saturday.

The scores: DPS HC 5 (Shahanul Shafaz 1, Saurabh Mahesh 9, Devavrat Hiray 12, 23, Muthu 56) bt Dharwad DCA 2 (Subhan Chaparband 34, B. Prajwal 44); RWFSA 6 (Kushman Singh 12, Dhanush 24, Abishek 45, 55, Mokshith 57, Umesh 59) bt Karnataka Forest Dept 1 (Mithun Bijwad 7).

Bangalore Dream United posts win

Bangalore Dream United FC edged out FC Real Bengaluru 3-2 in the BDFA Super Division League football on Saturday.

The results: Bangalore City FC 2 (Oka Zhimoni 5, R.S. Jlcis 62) bt Parikrma FC 1 (ThangJalen Haokip 90+2); Bangalore Dream United FC 3 (LakshmiKant Bellur Srinivas 45+2, K. Lalrinfela 59, 68) bt FC Real Bengaluru 2 (A. Vaishak 22, Syed Ahmed 90+7).

It angers me when kids want to play IPL and not for India: Kapil

The aim should be to represent the country, says the 1983 World Cup-winning captain; the legendary all-rounder adds he isn't against former players featuring in franchise league cricket abroad as they have to look after themselves

Sports Bureau

Hard talk: Kapil Dev minced no words in his discussion with Suresh Balakrishna at the summit. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Kapil Dev belongs to a generation when T20 cricket league was an alien concept, but as the game has progressed with the shorter format dominating it, he is happy to see the amount of talent that has emerged.

"Don't you feel good when teams score 300 runs in T20I? I feel very good because it shows the amount of talent we have. In our time, we struggled to score 100 runs in 50 overs. So, you have to admire this generation," Kapil said at the PlayCom 2025: Business of Sports Summit.

In a fireside chat with Suresh Balakrishna, the Chief Revenue Officer of *The Hindu* Group, Kapil admitted that while it is heartwarming to see the parents encouraging their wards to take up sport, it angers him when people want to play in the IPL and not for the country.

"The change is that now the parents want their kids to play cricket, whereas in our time, playing cricket meant parents would slap you. Now parents bring the wards to the ground with the hope that their child can play in the IPL. It angers me when you want to play the IPL and not for the country. That's when I get annoyed. The aim should be to represent the country, and not the club," he said.

However, he isn't against former players featuring in franchise league cricket abroad. "After playing, they have to look after themselves. And if they think they can make a better life by playing in the leagues, that's fine," Kapil said.

While the BCCI does not allow its players to feature in any franchise leagues, except for the IPL, the retired players are permitted to feature in overseas leagues. And, Kapil sees nothing wrong in that. "We should never raise our fingers, because either you give them a guarantee that they would be looked after leaving cricket. The fact is we don't look after anyone," the 1983 World Cup-winning captain said.

In focus: Nilesh Kulkarni, Dr. Amit Bhalla, John Gloster, panel moderator Varghese K. George, Resident Editor, *The Hindu*, New Delhi and Dr. Shobhit Jain. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

'For talent to grow you need the right person to spot it'

Sports Bureau

It is the age of glory for Indian sports, Rajasthan Royals head physio John Gloster observed at the PlayCom 2025: Business of Sports Summit on Saturday.

"We're very much on the global focus because of the IPL. It has now become the most valuable sporting property in the world. The whole world, particularly the US, is asking, 'What is this IPL?' The other thing that's firmly put us on the global map is we've firmly put our hand up for the 2036 Olympics," said Gloster in a session titled 'Beyond the Game: Building Careers in Sports', alongside Nilesh Kulkarni, Founder-Director of the International Institute of Sports & Management, Dr. Amit Bhalla, Vice President, Manav Rachna University, and Dr. Shobhit Jain IRS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.

Kulkarni underlined key areas India needs to focus on to accelerate sports development. "One, obviously, is the grassroots development. That's where the talent needs to come up. And in that space, you require hundreds and thousands of people to create that filter process for a talent to grow. But for talent to grow, you need the right person to identify that talent."

Bhalla highlighted the role of educational institutions in broadening the sports base. "I first tried playing golf when I was 20, and my son tried golf when he was six. Because his school had that option for him, where he could try. So educational institutions play a very vital role in broadening the base. Then, if you bring in some flexibility. It should not be either or. What we need to work on is to put education and sports together."

Meanwhile, Jain explained how a shift in sporting culture has been reflected in the government's refurbished sports policy. "Earlier, the policy was largely about medals. Today, we structured it into five verticals and one whole vertical is devoted to the economy of sports. So this whole shift is enabling the shift in the sporting ecosystem also. Today, when we talk of careers, you add sport to any career and there is a career".

Critical aspect: Hannah Muthoot, Akhilesh Reddy, Suhail Chandhok and panel moderator Suresh Balakrishna explored what it takes to build a sporting ecosystem. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Challenges and chances of turning vision into impact

Sports Bureau

In the panel 'Young Turks - A New Sporting Vision for New India', Hannah Muthoot (Director, Muthoot Sport, Muthoot Pappachan Group), Akhilesh Reddy (Chairman & Managing Director, Racing Promotions Pvt. Ltd.), Suhail Chandhok (CEO, U Mumba & Co-Founder, Elev8 India Sportz), and moderator Suresh Balakrishna (Chief Revenue Officer, *The Hindu* Group) explored the need to push boundaries while reimagining what it takes to build a sporting ecosystem.

From volleyball in Kerala and motorsport nationwide to kabaddi on the national stage, Hannah, Akhilesh, and Suhail reflected on the challenges and opportunities of turning vision into impact at the PlayCom 2025 Summit.

"I entered sport after much of the initial groundwork was done by my father. People have genuinely wanted to guide and support me in developing it," Hannah said.

Yet, sustainability remains a challenge. "Can we truly build a brand? Our academies in Kerala are recognised, but to strengthen the ecosystem we need younger players to come in through colleges and our academies. Combining all three – grassroots, colleges, and academies – is a challenge," she added.

Akhilesh entered motorsport equally driven by passion, while acknowledging its expense.

"Motorsport has the power to create industrial establishments, generate jobs, and become a platform for research and development and technology. It can push engineers and mechanics into innovation. There are already kids passionate about working on car engines. Motorsport gives them a pathway to turn that into careers, therefore boosting employment, and contributing to the GDP."

Suhail sees sport as community-building rather than just competition.

"We had a team from Uttarakhand that didn't do very well (in Yuva Kabaddi series), but we spotted one really bright young talent there. His team got knocked out early, so we moved him to the Puducherry team. That team made the finals, and the boy did really well. The year before he played Yuva, he was maybe earning ₹20-50,000 a year from kabaddi. Then he came through our series, made the final, got spotted by scouts in Pro Kabaddi, and earned himself a ₹78-lakh contract in the auction."

Hannah added that deeper community engagement is critical.

Navigating a tectonic shift in sports ecosystem

Sports Bureau

During the 'New Frontiers in Sports: Play, Fitness and More' panel at the PlayCom Business of Sports Summit, Neha Parab Kandalgaonkar, the vice president and head of corporate communications at Procam International, highlighted a tectonic shift in India's definition of sport.

"If somebody told me 20 years ago that a 65-year-old would want to run a half-marathon, triathlon or any other endurance sport, it would have been unheard of. But that has been possible today."

Deepak Raj, country head of IRONMAN India and HYROX, said the inception of the latter, a global, mass-participation indoor fitness race, has given gym enthusiasts something to be excited about.

Exploring new ventures: Deepak Raj, Sameer Pathak, Neha Parab Kandalgaonkar, Parvin Dabas, Tuhin Mishra and panel moderator Aparajita Biswas. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

"When we brought the IRONMAN to India, there were only a few triathletes. Even the gym-goers never had a race or a sport despite being really disciplined and active. They do now," he said in a panel moderated by Aparajita Biswas, Marketing Head of *The Hindu* Group.

Parvin Dabas, co-founder of the Pro Panja League, thanked the Government for fuelling the growth of non-conventional sports in the country. Furthermore, Dabas revealed that India has secured the hosting rights of the World Armwrestling Championship next year.

Pickleball, an emerging trend, has trickled down to peri-urbane locales through Instagram reels and Youtube shorts.

"If you have played badminton, squash, tennis or table tennis, it's easier. What that has done is, it has made pickleball very inclusive at the beginning stage itself," Sameer Pathak, an administrator of the sport, said.

Tuhin Mishra, managing director and co-founder at Baseline Ventures and Director of the Prime Volleyball League (PVL), underlined balance as priority.

"In India, our league's viewership is split 57-43 between men and women. It's one of those sports which is not skewed (gender-wise), which means that we can actually involve more women as well to take up the sport".

I still remember collecting pictures of Sachin Tendulkar and Kapil Dev from *Sportstar* in my school days. To be here today at a *Sportstar* symposium feels like coming a full circle

SUHAS YATHIRAJ
Uttar Pradesh Sports Secretary

The new online gaming regulations have done more than just regulate — they have recognised esports as a competitive sport, giving it the legitimacy and clarity it deserves. This sets the stage for something truly transformative

DILSHER SINGH MALHI
Founder and CEO, Zupee

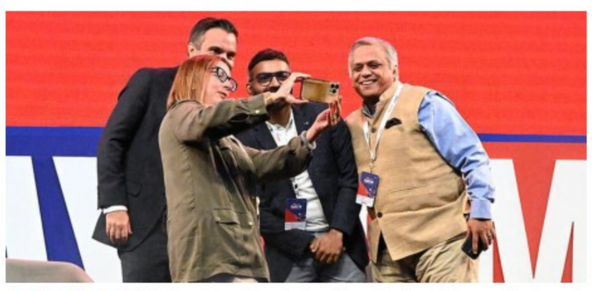
CricViz's Davis calls for a balanced use of AI

Sports Bureau

There exists a need for balance while harnessing Artificial Intelligence in sports, said Alan Davis, Marketing Head, CricViz, during a panel at the PlayCom 2025: Business of Sports Summit.

"With anything to do with AI and technology, it's about accuracy, depth of data. For example, we've got records of 75,000 cricketers. Ultimately, yes, we can run that through systems and programs and models, but you still need an element of human intelligence to match that," said Davis. The session, titled 'Wired for Winning: Tech, AI & the Science of Sport,' also featured Iris Cordoba Mondejar, Managing Director, GSIC Powered by Microsoft, and Chintan Shah, SVP - Teams, Leagues & Federations, Sportz Interactive and was moderated by Mahesh V. Panchagnula, Head, IIT Madras Centre of Excellence on Sports Science and Analytics.

Chintan spoke about the seasonal nature of Indian sports. "During the off-season, what we try to do is to build digital stadiums where you can give those experiences to the fans. And that's where technology can play a big role. Only challenge is that most of the teams are trying to do this on social media, which is again one too many. It's important to shift the focus to doing this on your own platforms, where you can track the user behaviour and drive meaningful conversation," he said.



Smile please! Iris Cordoba Mondejar, Alan Davis, Chintan Shah and moderator Mahesh V. Panchagnula snap a selfie. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Global reach

The vital link: Iris Cordoba Mondejar feels that the sports industry market can be expanded by reaching potential audiences through digital media. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Hitting the reset button

Three-pronged strategy: Harpreet Singh Sudan, IAS, Director - Sports, Govt. of Punjab, revealed that the State has rolled out an ambitious sports revival plan backed by a record ₹942-crore budget for 2025-26, with a focus on building grassroots infrastructure, nurturing talent, and reclaiming its sporting dominance. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

'India has the infrastructure for hosting Olympics, CWG'

Hari Ranjan Rao, Secretary, Sports, Government of India, adds that spending money on the field of play is important; Sharath Kamal terms building a talent pool for the 2036 Games as priority

Sports Bureau

Sharing ideas: Sharath Kamal, Hari Ranjan Rao IAS, Devendra Jhajharia and panel moderator K.C. Vijaya Kumar. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

India already has the capability to host an event of the scale of the Olympics, said Hari Ranjan Rao, IAS, Secretary, Sports, Government of India, at *Sportstar*'s PlayCom 2025 – Business of Sports Summit on Saturday.

"If you look at infrastructure building for hosting a multi-sport event like the Olympics and Commonwealth Games, India has already done it and proven it in the past. The infrastructure that was built at that time is still there and being put to use by athletes and various stakeholders. So to my mind, creating infrastructure for hosting a multi-sport event is not a childhood dream. Especially where the country is today in terms of the growth curve," Rao said.

"There is a good case for putting our heads together and coming up with ways in which we could spend this money in a more nuanced, fruitful and useful way. In the typical sporting language, spending money on the field of play is more important than building huge, large-scale concrete stadiums that you will never be able to fill in one or two years," he said.

Achanta Sharath Kamal, former paddler and Vice Chairperson of the Indian Olympics Association Athletes Commission, underlined that building a competitive talent pool for the 2036 Olympics was also priority.

"Getting the Olympics [hosting rights] is one goal, but if you plug everything in place from grassroots to high performance for the next 10 to 12 years, you will get athletes who will be at their peak by 2036. This is the generation we're looking to nurture. This will have a snowball effect where kids will have a way of life through sport," he said during the panel 'Gameplan 2036: India's Global Event Ambition', moderated by K.C. Vijaya Kumar, Sports Editor, *The Hindu*.

Paralympic Committee of India president and former para-athlete Devendra Jhajharia echoed that India has both the experience and the capacity to host the Games. "An international delegation had visited us during the first edition of the Khelo India Para Games. When they saw the facilities, they said that India can host an international event very well. So, I would like to tell you that India is ready to host the Olympics. We can do it easily. We have the capacity," he said.

Both Jhajharia and Sharath expressed confidence in India's para-athletes when the Olympics eventually come home. "We will be performing above expectations. In Paris we were 18th. Mark my words, we will be in the top 10 at the home Olympics".

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Sportstar's special World Para Athletics edition unveiled

Sports Bureau

Fruitful partnership: Sanjeev Soorma, Suresh Balakrishna, Arvinder Singh Sahney, Devendra Jhajharia, Ayon Sengupta and Prasanth Shanthakumaran at the summit. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Arvinder Singh Sahney, Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), unveiled *Sportstar's* special World Para Athletics edition at the PlayCom – Business of Sports Summit 2025, jointly hosted by *Sportstar* and *KPMG* in India at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Sahney said the partnership with *Sportstar* reflected IOCL's long-standing vision of using sport as a catalyst for nation-building and social change.

Strong belief

"Our belief has always been that sport goes far beyond just chasing medals and glory. That is what Indian Oil stands for when we associate ourselves with sport," he noted.

IndianOil has backed para athletics at the Asian Para Games 2022, the World Para Shooting Championships 2024, and the Paris 2024 Paralympics, where India returned with a record 29 medals.

Sahney also lauded the achievements of Sheetal Devi, the company's own icon—the world's first female armless archer—as a source of immense pride.

He highlighted the IndianOil Divyashakti programme, a pioneering scholarship for 100 para athletes across 16 sports, with half the slots reserved for women. Already, eight Divyashakti athletes have qualified for the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships in Delhi.

Sahney added that initiatives like the recently published IndianOil-*Sportstar* coffee-table book on Indian sporting history, and the unveiling of the new World Para Athletics edition, are milestones in a partnership dedicated to celebrating achievement, preserving sporting legacies, and inspiring future generations.

'Talent identification and grassroots infrastructure our biggest challenges'

Sports Bureau

Uttar Pradesh Sports Secretary and two-time Paralympic medallist Suhas Yathiraj outlined the State's ambitious grassroots development programme at PlayCom 2025: Business of Sports Summit.

"One of the biggest challenges for sports administrators today is to take children away from screens and bring them back to the playing fields," said Yathiraj, stressing the need for a broad-based approach that combines infrastructure, athlete support, sports education, and public-private partnerships. "Under the leadership of our Chief Minister, a policy decision has been taken to build a mini-stadium in every developmental block. Uttar Pradesh has 826 such blocks, and each will have its own facility," he said.

"Talent identification and providing quality infrastructure at the grassroots remain our biggest challenges. That is why we are standardising our mini-stadium model with specifications for volleyball courts, tennis courts, and wrestling mats," he noted.

Yathiraj. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

The efforts, Yathiraj argued, are already yielding dividends. "At the last Asian Games in Hangzhou, nearly 25 per cent of the medallists from India were from Uttar Pradesh. Such progress demonstrates that sports reforms and revolutions do not happen overnight, but through structured efforts."

On athlete support, he pointed to the Eklavya Krida Kosh, which provides up to ₹5 lakh in cover for athletes. UP's Sports Schools initiative, combining academics with professional training, currently runs three institutions, with three more set to open next year.

"Sport has become highly technical, demanding scientific support and world-class facilities. As a State, we are committed to providing that support".

Community-driven CSR key to sustainable sports, say experts at PlayCom 2025

Sports Bureau

Talking points: Neelam Babardesai, Anupam Nidhi, Prijoe Tharu and moderator Chitra Narayanan, Editorial Consultant, *The Hindu BusinessLine*. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Leadership that strongly supports Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is crucial to building sustainable sports development programmes with lasting impact, said Anupam Nidhi, Head of CSR, Vedanta Group & Hindustan Zinc, at PlayCom 2025 – Business of Sports Summit.

"Sport is not an area where you can expect results in one, three or even four years. You have to stay invested for nine or 10 years to bring about real change," Anupam said during the panel titled 'Purpose Play: CSR, Inclusion & Sport for All'.

Neelam Babardesai, Head of Sports at Tata Trusts, stressed that community-driven models can be self-sustaining and need not depend solely on corporate backing. She underlined that people must remain central to any programme.

"We piloted sustainability in our badminton programme in Mizoram. We started with 40 grassroots centres across the State with community ownership. Mizoram has an amazing sports culture where everybody plays.

"So, we initiated community-owned grassroots centres and asked them to collect fees, allowing them to decide the amount. These centres were managed by the local communities. None of that money came to us – we only helped set up the structures and supported them for the first three years. We funded the coaches' salaries, covered tournaments, shuttles and other essentials, and built the ecosystem around it.

"In 2021, when we could not fund the programme, we thought it might die down. But within six months, the community stepped up, using the money they had collected over the three years. They managed to sustain the centres through that eight to 10-month period without our support. Even today, about 25 to 26 grassroots centres across the State are able to run on their own," Babardesai said.

"With 'Sports For Change', which we launched in 2017, we have been purely focused on grassroots development programmes, and the idea actually came from the students themselves. When we were running education programmes in schools, students asked us why we didn't start something in sports for them. That is how it began – as a purely volunteer-led movement. Today, we have reached more than 65,000 students across 20 States, which is one of our biggest achievements," Prijoe Tharu, Associate General Manager, HCL Foundation, added.

Women in Blue meet a formidable Australian side

CRICKET

P.K. Ajith Kumar
NEW CHANDIGARH

> We are happy that we are playing against one of the best teams, and these matches are very important
> HARMANPREET

Not far away from those famed green paddy fields of Punjab, here in the village of Mullanpur is the lush green outfield of the PCA Stadium. Yet another spanking new Indian cricket ground is making its international debut, on Sunday.

The stadium, which has been Punjab Kings' home since last year's IPL, is the venue for the first two matches of the women's ODI series between India and Australia. With the World Cup just a fortnight away, these matches are a perfect dress rehearsal for the teams.

For Alyssa Healy's women, it is an ideal opportunity to play as a group after a fairly long break. Their last international match was in March, the T20 series in New Zealand.

The Indians, though, have played a lot of cricket recently. And they played a lot of good cricket, too: in England, where they won both the ODI and T20I series.

They are up against a much stronger opposition, though. These Aussie women are a bunch of world-beaters – Ellyse Perry, Beth Mooney, Ashleigh Gardner, Tahlia McGrath, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Healy – who have been far too dominant. Like they were against England earlier this year, winning all the three ODIs, three T20Is, and the one-off Test in the women's Ashes Down Under.

With several of their stars having plenty of the WPL experience, they are familiar with the conditions, too. They have also had some great times in the bilateral series against the Indians.

India's last win against Australia in an ODI was four years ago, at Mackay. The host will be really keen to score another victory against this gifted side.

The class and experience of captain Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Radha Yadav, the promise of Kranti Goud and N. Shree Charani and the return of Renuka Singh give India reasons to believe.

Gearing up: India will be hoping for a good start from young opener Pratika. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

> This is the most stable Indian side I have seen. And India is a great place to come and play as a cricketer
> HEALY

The teams (from): India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh, Arundhati Reddy, Kranti Gaud, Sayali Satghare, Radha Yadav, Renuka Singh, N. Shree Charani, Sneh Rana and Uma Chetry.

Australia: Alyssa Healy (Capt.), Tahlia McGrath, Nicole Faltum, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Grace Harris, Alana King, Charli Knott, Phoebe Litchfield, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll and Georgia Wareham.